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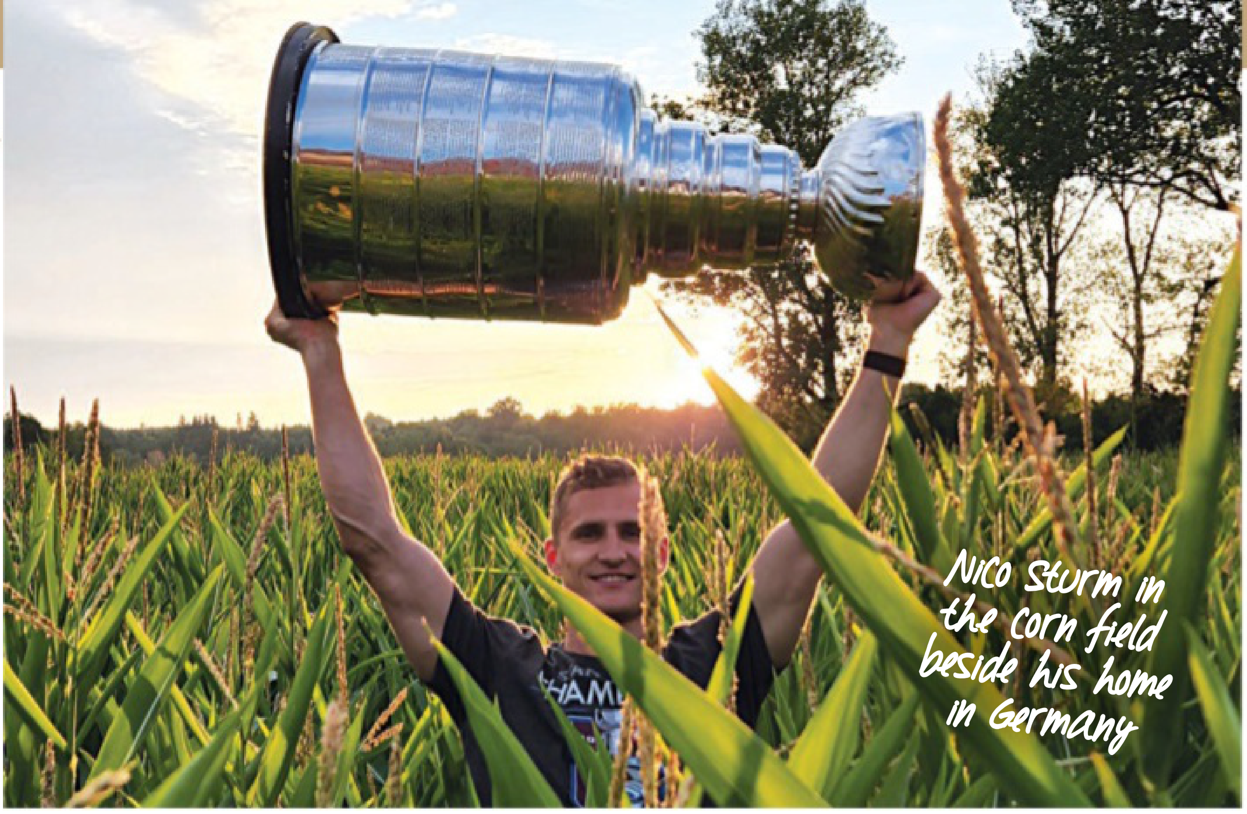

Nico Sturm in the corn field beside his home in Germany

Artturi Lehkonen Celebrating Finnish style in the sauna

Pavel Francouz in the world s original Pilsner Brewery in Plzen, Czech

PHOTOS BY PHIL PRITCHARD/ HHOF IMAGES

Gabriel Landeskog at the celebration wrapped in the Swedish flag

The Hockey News

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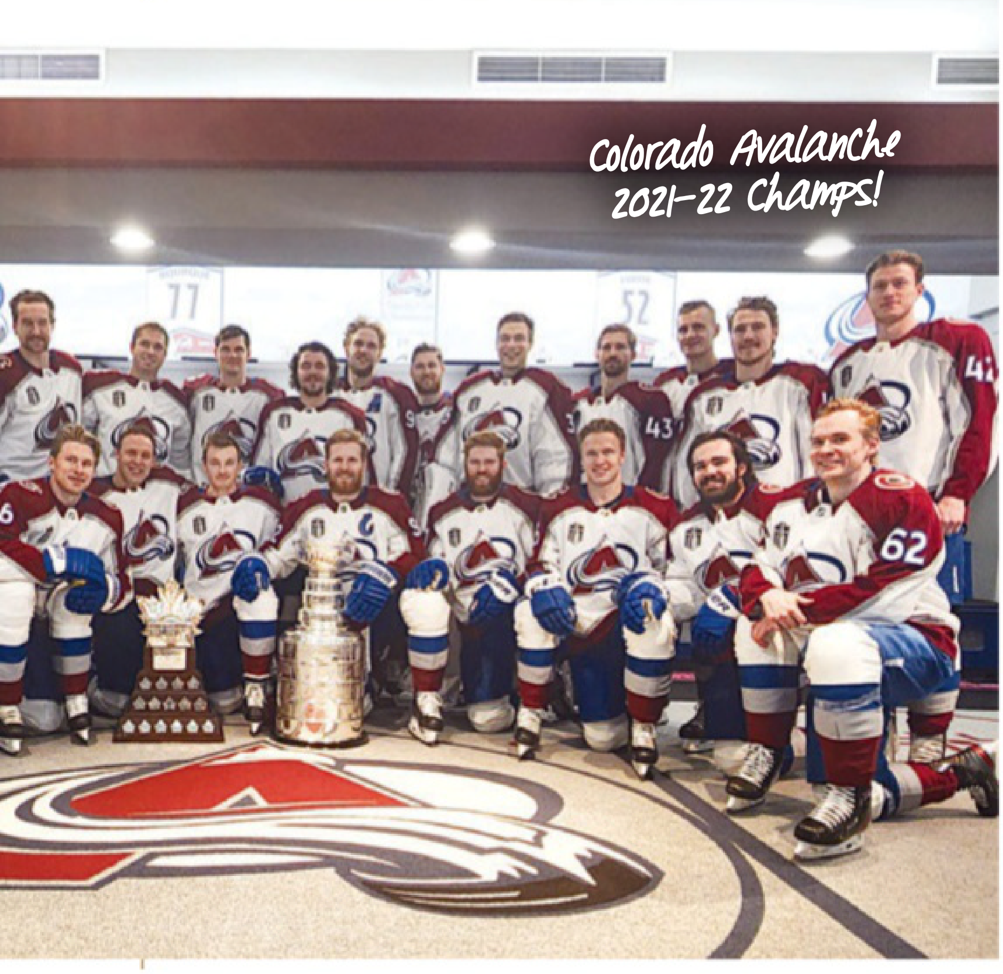
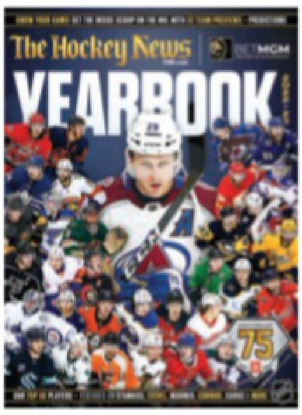

Colorado Avalanche 2021-22 Champs!

ON THE COVER



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WITH RYAN KENNEDY

LOTS OF SUMMER SIZZLE

IF YOU'VE EVER spent any time online, you've probably noticed a certain longing from NHL fans about how the league has typically trailed behind its wintertime cousin, the NBA, when it comes to off-season drama. While the world's best basketball league regularly sees tectonic plate-shifting trades and free-agent signings, hockey is usually more understated.

You can factor in the different salary-cap machinations of the two leagues, or the fact basketball requires just a few stars on one team to shift the balance of power, but it's been pretty well established that the NBA knows how to pull off a blockbuster.

But this summer, the NHL stepped up to the plate with maximum chaos. Two of the top three scorers in the league changed teams, with Johnny Gaudreau leaving Calgary as a free agent for Columbus and Florida's Jonathan Huberdeau then getting traded to Calgary. The Flames gave up another top-10 scorer in that deal in Matthew Tkachuk, who, like Gaudreau, was looking for a way out of Alberta. (It's possible we see a fourth top-10 scorer move during the season if Vancouver decides to sell high on J.T. Miller).

Tkachuk was dealt to the Panthers for a package that brought more than just Huberdeau. The Flames also got a new No. 1 defenseman in MacKenzie Weegar, plus a first-round pick and a prospect. That's quite the haul for the Flames, who needed to go big after losing Gaudreau and his 115 points.

Calgary's loss was Columbus' gain, as the Blue Jackets landed one of the NHL's best players and perhaps a set-up man for ace shooter Patrik Laine (who was acquired in his own blockbuster trade a couple years ago for Pierre-Luc Dubois). For a market that has seen more than its share of free-agency exits, it was nice to see Columbus fans get a win.

The same can be said for Carolina, where the Hurricanes' tailgating faithful will have to research some new exotic meats for Brent Burns, who comes to town via trade with San Jose. The bearded beast – and one of the NHL's best personalities – was acquired basically in a cap dump from the rebuilding Sharks, and when the Canes went out and got Max Pacioretty for nothing in a trade with cap-strapped Vegas, it became a great off-season for Carolina GM Don Waddell.

STEVEN ELLIS/THE HOCKEY NEWS

So I ask you, dear reader, are you not entertained? We saw some groundbreaking deals and moves this summer, something the hockey world has coveted for years now.

The irony here is that the salary cap – that shackling villain of so many Stanley Cup hopes – actually propelled a lot of this chaos. The Golden Knights wanted Jack Eichel last season, but couldn't ride LTIR forever, and that meant big moves in the off-season if Vegas wanted to play more than 17 skaters in a game this year. Pacioretty, and to a lesser extent Evgenii Dadonov (now in Montreal), had to pay the freight for Vegas' cap compliance.

And while I would never give the salary cap credit for doing something positive, I at least have to admit that what seemed like an interminable cap crunch around the league didn't actually gum up the works when it came to blockbuster moves – it just meant teams had to get creative. Some benefitted from the situation, while others suffered. Even off the ice, hockey is a game of advantages taken, it seems. H

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

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WITH W. GRAEME ROUSTAN

STEWARDS OF THE GAME

I HAVE BEEN running businesses now for 44 years, everything from cutting grass in Florida using Fergie Jenkins blue-and-white 1976 Chevrolet pickup truck back in 1978, all the way up the corporate food chain to being the chairman of a publicly traded company where I became a bit of a corporate-governance expert.

I've learned a great deal about people on this journey, one being how some people forget they are merely stewards of an organization for a short period of time in the leadership positions as a chairperson, director, CEO, executive director, president or any other top position of authority in an organization.

These tip-of-the-spear leaders are put in place to ensure the organization is always acting in the best interests of all of their stakeholders. This includes their employees, customers, vendors, shareholders, non-profit members and the community they are a member of, which includes those people who come in contact with anyone associated with the organization. They too must have their best interests protected. They do this, in part, by setting the tone at the top in the boardroom, which must filter down into the "C" suite and permeate throughout the organization.

On June 5, 2015, as the past chairman of Bauer and possibly owning the largest personal stake in the company, I sat across the table from chairman Bernard McDonnell with director and CEO Kevin Davis sitting right next to him, and I told them both that, in my opinion, they collectively were not acting in the best long-term interests of Bauer. They actually smirked, rolled their eyes, and there was an audible giggle from one of these two grown men in response.

It was precisely at that moment that I believed they didn't understand they were mere stewards of Bauer for this brief period. They were not, what seemed to be in their minds, the self-anointed kings of Bauer. Chairman McDonnell had only been in that position for four years out of Bauer's 89 years of existence when it went bankrupt the following year in 2016.

In 2019, I openly criticized the board of directors of the Canadian Women's Hockey League for shutting down the only Canadian professional hockey league for women. The board, led by its chair Laurel Walzak, voted to shut down and dissolve the not-for-profit hockey league when I believe they had a fiduciary duty to do everything to ensure it stayed open.

I believe these actions cast a dark cloud over women's hockey, especially when they stated that after 12 years of a growing fan base, sponsors and revenues, the league was "economically unsustainable." They did this even though they had a surplus of revenue and a willing investor (me and likely others) to continue to grow the CWHL. Again, it was at that moment that I believed that the majority of directors didn't understand they were mere stewards of the CWHL, and their duty was to keep it operational and not shut it down. Chair Walzak had been in that position approximately one year of its 12-year existence before it was dissolved.

As an activist investor, I cannot tell you how many times I come across an arrogant chair, director or CEO who thinks of the organization as their own personal fiefdom. They act like they can do no wrong, and how dare any shareholder ask them tough questions. This arrogance often extends beyond shareholders to all stakeholders, which include employees, customers and members of the community.

When some people get into powerful positions like that of a chair, a director or a CEO of any organization, they feel entitled to the discretion to do or not do what they like. This happens at every level in organizations, including youth hockey all the way up to professional and international hockey organizations. It is pervasive across every industry and country around the world. The common thread throughout all of the bad behavior that occurs in organizations is that the top leaders forget they are mere stewards of that enterprise for a very short period of time in its history, and they must always be proactive in representing the best interests of all stakeholders.

On Aug. 6, 2022, Hockey Canada's chairman Michael Brind'Amour resigned due to pressure mounting from the way Hockey Canada was handling the fallout from two alleged sexual-assault scandals that occurred at the 2002-03 World Junior Championship that began on Dec. 26, 2002 and ended on Jan. 5, 2003, and June 2018. Brind'Amour resigned even though he was only named chairman in November 2018, after both alleged assaults took place.

Hockey Canada's chairman during the 2002-03 World Junior Championship was Sheldon Lanchbery, and in 2018 it was Joe Drago, and these alleged sexual assaults apparently took place on their watch. Scott Smith became Hockey Canada's CEO on July 1, 2022 and was not the CEO in 2003 or in 2018 when these alleged sexual assaults took place. In 2003, the CEO was now Edmonton Oilers chairman Bob Nicholson, and in 2018 the CEO was Tom Renney. I have been critical of Tom Renney in his role as CEO of Hockey Canada and Bob Nicholson for his role with the IIHF for what I believe to be their playing politics described in my Publisher's Note in the 2020-21 Yearbook.

My sense is that these chairmen and CEOs didn't understand they were actually brought in to Hockey Canada to be stewards of the game, there to protect it and all of its stakeholders and to leave it in a better condition than when they arrived.

If their or their defenders' rebuttal is that Hockey Canada is much better off from a financial and medal-count standpoint during their tenure, then I don't believe they really get what being a steward is all about. If the allegations are proven true, then all directors should resign or be removed.

We are all here for a limited amount of time, and in the big picture, we only have a small window to effect change and improve the lives of others now and that follow us. We are all stewards of the environment and the things that we love, like family and hockey. All of us should strive to leave the world, our relationships and organizations better off than when we arrive on scene. Heads of organizations whose hubris gets in the way of proper stewardship should be identified and called out, and if still at the helm of an organization, they should be removed swiftly.

Chairs, directors, CEOs of every organization need to understand they are mere stewards for a brief period of time, there to serve all of the stakeholders of THE GAME.

W. Graeme Roustan

W. Graeme Roustan
Executive Chairman & Publisher, Roustan Media Ltd.
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PHOTO BY MICHELLE VALBERG

10 THINGS TO WATCH

BY KEN CAMPBELL

TRYING SOMETHING NEW

The 2022-23 season should look 'normal,' but that doesn't mean the NHL isn't still in a constant state of change. The number of new faces in NHL creases may be exceeded only by those behind the benches. The league will explore new frontiers – from the look of the sweaters to the barns that house them. And while some experiments will go better than others, there's an awfully enticing prize for the teams that fizzle out

CONNOR **BEDARD**

KEITH HERSHMILLER PHOTOGRAPHY

FINALLY, BACK TO normal. That is, if your normal consists of an NHL team playing in a college arena, John Tortorella and Tony DeAngelo in the same organization and a summer in which many consider the Ottawa Senators the big winners.

The 2022-23 season will mark the first campaign since 2018-19 that the league will not feel any of the direct effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope. It has been a long, sometimes tricky, slog to get here, but we made it. With that in mind, here are 10 things to watch for in 2022-23. It is the NHL's 106th season, but the 105th with actual games because of that lockout thingy a while back. No, not that one, the one before that.

>MUSICAL BENCHES

New York Islanders coach Lane Lambert has had a longer tenure with the same team than nine other coaches currently working in the NHL. The Isles named him bench boss on May 16. Of this year. The merry-go-round of coaching changes in the off-season has been dizzying. In fact, when the puck drops to start the season, almost half the teams in the NHL (13 of 32) will have a coach serving his first full season behind his team's bench. Of those 13, only five – Martin St-Louis in Montreal, Jay Woodcroft in Edmonton, Derek Lalonde in Detroit, Luke Richardson in Chicago and Lambert – are first-time NHL coaches.

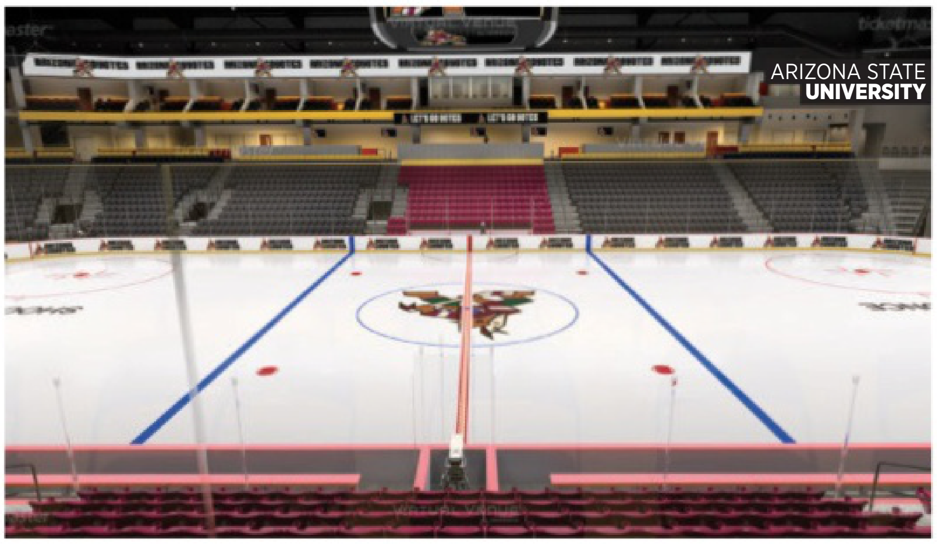
Contrast that with Paul Maurice, who will celebrate his silver anniversary of coaching this season with his fourth team (he's coached the Carolina Hurricanes twice). Tortorella (Philadelphia) and Peter DeBoer (Dallas) will be on their fifth teams. And including his stints as an assistant/associate coach, Rick Bowness will begin his 34th NHL coaching season and join his ninth organization with the Winnipeg Jets in 2022-23.

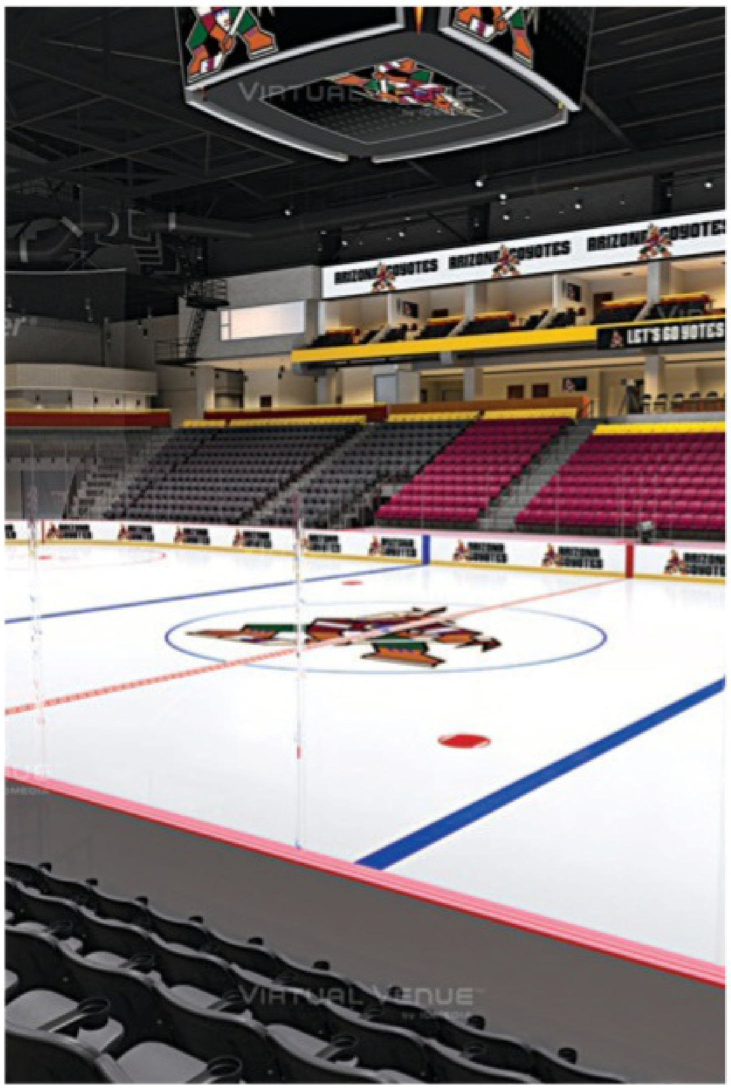
Meanwhile, Barry Trotz is taking some time off from coaching but will run his fourth NHL bench when he inevitably returns. And Scotty Bowman just left the Chicago Blackhawks and is looking for work. We're kidding – sort of.

>TANKS FOR SOMETHIN'

The race to the bottom – which figures to have the too-often-contending Arizona Coyotes joined by the Blackhawks, Montreal Canadiens and Philadelphia Flyers – won't be terribly fascinating to watch, but the prize awaiting the winner of the draft lottery will be. The projected No. 1 overall pick is Connor Bedard, who just happens to be the best Connor to come around since 2015. An exceptional-status player who could make a mockery of the WHL scoring race, Bedard could also get dealt to a Memorial Cup contender if the Regina Pats are as bad as they've been the past two seasons.

The consolation prizes are plenty enticing, as well. Adam Fantilli is a man-boy who eschewed the OHL and will instead suit up for the University of Michigan. Rounding out the po-





dium is Matvei Michkov, who (along with Bedard) tore up the 2021 under-18 world championship as a 16-year-old. And there will be one or two others who race up the charts, as is almost always the case.

GUESSING ON GOALIES

As many as 12 teams, including the reigning champion Colorado Avalanche, could have a new No. 1. But perhaps, when you win the title riding a goalie who posted the worst save percentage of any Cup-winning starter of the salary-cap era, it doesn't matter who you put between the pipes.

It does in a lot of other places, though, and some of those teams are gambling – or praying – things work out in the nets. The way we figure, Devan Dubnyk is to blame for all of this. Seven years ago, he was taken off the scrap heap – which, by the way, is located behind a St-Hubert restaurant in suburban Montreal – and saved the Minnesota Wild's season, reviving his career. This gave hopes to every goalie-starved GM that the reclamation-project route is a viable option.

The team that bears watching most will be the Toronto Maple Leafs, who are counting on Matt Murray to rediscover his back-to-back-Cups form. The other will be in Edmonton, where Jack Campbell and his limited resume will be expected to help a talented Oilers team to the promised land.

THE OL' COLLEGE TRY

Tempe sort of sounds like Tampa, right? They're both sunbelt cities and are homes to teams that, at times in their history, struggled with ownership and attendance issues. So perhaps there is hope for the Coyotes as they embark on a new era of playing their home games in a 5,000-seat arena. Beginning this season and lasting until the end of the 2024-25 campaign – with an option for '25-26 – the Coyotes will play their home games at the new rink on the campus of Arizona State University. Depending on what kind of atmosphere the Coyotes can create, they could turn out to be a tough out at home.

If all the seats are bought and paid for at a premium price, the Coyotes might not be in any worse financial state than they were at Gila River Arena as they await their new permanent digs. When they christen their new home on Oct. 28, the marquee will read: "Tonight: Jets vs. Coyotes. Kegger in Keller's room after the game."

HITTING A ROUGH PATCH?

A few years after saying, "You'd probably have to bring me kicking and screaming" into an era in which teams would have advertising on their sweaters, NHL commissioner Gary Bettman announced teams would sell space on their uniforms to the highest bidder beginning this season. Enduring a pandemic that proved to be a financial reckoning for all professional sports has a way of changing minds.

But as of the summer, only a handful of teams had announced partnerships, and there was speculation that about a third of the league's teams were having difficulty selling the space – at least for the $5- to $10-million annual figure the league projected. "That's because they bet heavily on crypto and sports betting for those deals," said one sports-marketing expert. "Crypto has crashed, and sports betting has become a saturated market, so a lot of those companies don't have that kind of money to spend."

START YOUR CASH REGISTERS

That brings us to overall league revenues. To the surprise of almost everyone, Bettman announced in his address to the media before the Stanley Cup final that revenues, albeit for a 32-team league, hit record highs – in excess of $5.2 billion last season. That figure prompted some observers to cast a Spockian eyebrow. Bettman said the league, with a new TV deal in the United States and a bump of $1.4 billion in sponsorship, is robust and rebounding from the pandemic. And with the first season of (hopefully) a full 82-game schedule with capacity crowds, that figure could rise.

The players still owe their share of the debt from the pandemic. With escrow set at 10 percent for 2022-23 and six percent for the three years following that, only a significant rise in revenues will prevent a flat salary cap for the foreseeable future.

JOHNNY
GAUDREAU

JOHNNY HOCKEY, OHIO EDITION

No one in the hockey world – not even anyone in the Calgary Flames organization – was shocked that Johnny Gaudreau chose to sign elsewhere when he became an unrestricted free agent in the summer. What could have knocked everyone over with a speck of dust was where he chose to sign, still miles away from his roots on the eastern seaboard with a team that doesn't look as though it's anywhere near being a Stanley Cup contender. Who knows? Perhaps the thought of setting up easy tap-ins for Patrik Laine was appealing to him. But after years of losing their own stars to free agency, the Blue Jackets finally turned the tables.

And with Matthew Tkachuk dealt to Florida for a package including Jonathan Huberdeau and MacKenzie Weegar just a week after Gaudreau departed, the Flames will look radically different when they take the ice in October.

HAYLEY
WICKENHEISER

IT'S ABOUT TIME

In the space of two days over the summer, the number of women holding jobs as assistant GMs in the NHL swelled to five, with Hayley Wickenheiser being promoted by the Toronto Maple Leafs and Kate Madigan elevated by the New Jersey Devils. They joined Meghan Hunter, who moved into the role with the Chicago Blackhawks earlier in the off-season, and Emilie Castonguay and Cammi Granato, who were named assistant GMs with the Vancouver Canucks last season.

We saw one barrier get knocked down after Mike Grier became the first Black man to become an NHL GM, and we are indeed getting closer to the day when we see a woman running a big-league hockey operations department.

HE SHOOTS... HE SCORES!

With his 22nd goal of the 2022-23 season, Alex Ovechkin will pass Gordie Howe for second on the league's all-time goals list at 802. It will also put him 92 goals in arrears of Wayne Gretzky for No. 1. Ovechkin, who turns 37 in September, is entering the second season of a five-year deal with the Washington Capitals and is showing no signs of slowing down. In fact, Ovechkin has scored at a 50-goal pace (or very near) in eight of the past 10 campaigns. Another big year would insulate him against a future decline, assuming, of course, that even ever happens with this guy.

ALEX
OVECHKIN

KING KESSEL?

The NHL's ironman streak lasted for almost 35 years until Keith Yandle broke it last season, but there's a good chance Phil Kessel breaks it again this year by reaching 990. Assuming Kessel signs with a team (likely) and remains healthy (very likely), he'll break the record when he plays his eighth game. With 81 consecutive playoff games since his streak started in 2009, Kessel enters the season with 1,063 consecutive regular-season and post-season games played, the longest streak in NHL history. If he does break the record and hits 1,000 points – he's 44 off the mark – does that, plus his two Stanley Cups, put him in the Hall of Fame? H

GAUDREAU: BEN JACKSON/COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS; WICKENHEISER: TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS; OVECHKIN: RAJ MEHTA-USA TODAY SPORTS

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ROOKIE REPORT

This year's chase for the Calder Trophy has a Maize & Blue bent to it with three former Wolverines vying for top honors

BY RYAN KENNEDY

EVERY ROOKIE CLASS has its own character, but there are some fantastic storylines to look for in 2022-23. The most obvious is Shane Wright vs. Juraj Slafkovsky. Wright was supposed to go first overall in the 2022 draft, but Montreal took the big Slovakian winger instead, while Wright dropped to fourth before being eagerly snapped up by Seattle. And while the players themselves hold no animosity toward each other, you know every NHL fan is going to pick a side.

Free agency may play a role in the Calder Trophy race as well. Kent Johnson's role in Columbus may be a little different after the Blue Jackets snagged one of the best wingers in Johnny Gaudreau, while Ondrej Palat's arrival in New Jersey makes Alex Holtz's path a little tougher. But if you're a talented youngster who's ready to make an impact, roster spots tend to open up. Johnson is one of three high-profile kids who were playing for NCAA Michigan last year. The gifted winger will be joined by Buffalo defenseman Owen Power and Seattle center Matty Beniers. All three saw NHL time at the end of last season, so there is experience there – which could be crucial in their Calder pursuits. Here's a look at 10 top rookie candidates in 2022-23.

OWEN POWER BUF

THE SIZE, SKATING AND POISE that made him a star at Michigan translated nicely during his run with the Sabres at the end of 2021-22. And after another summer of training and development, expectations will be high for the 6-foot-6 defenseman. Don't be surprised if he meets or exceeds them. Power has all the tools to be an effective two-way blueliner, and taking an extra year to develop in college means he'll be more physically prepared for the NHL than if he'd gone straight from the draft podium to the pros. And don't forget – he went first overall in the 2021 draft.

SHANE WRIGHT SEA

NOT THAT HE NEEDED THE MOTIVATION, but the fact Wright slipped from potentially going first overall to No. 4 will provide the already competitive pivot with extra incentive. Wright dazzled at Kraken rookie camp, showing off an unexpected ability to change speeds. Seattle's braintrust already knew he was a superb two-way player, so this development was the cherry on top. With Beniers carving his path in Seattle at the same time, Wright won't have to carry the burden of expectations all by himself and could also benefit from some favorable line matchups.

MATTY BENIERS SEA

YOU COULDN'T ASK FOR MUCH BETTER FROM AN NHL DEBUT: Beniers rang up nine points in 10 games for the Kraken after completing his second NCAA season with Michigan. On top of his starring role with the Wolverines, Beniers' whirlwind 2021-22 campaign also included international duty with Team USA at both the World Junior Championship and Olympics. He'll be one of Seattle's youngest players, but Beniers' combination of speed, motor and skill make him one of the team's best options down the middle.

POWER: DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS; WRIGHT: ERIC BOLTE-USA TODAY SPORTS; BENIERS: STEPHEN BRASHEAR-USA TODAY SPORTS

JURAJ SLAFKOVSKY MTL

THE HABS GOT THEIR (somewhat surprising) man at No. 1, and now it's time to see what he can do in the pressure-packed market. Luckily, Slafkovsky proved time and again last year that he thrives in the spotlight, whether it was his MVP turn for Slovakia at the Olympics or his showing at the World Championship, where he was named one of his team's top three players. With size, snarl and a wicked shot that has been surprising goalies around the world, Slafkovsky has the physical attributes and confidence to hang with the Habs right away. They could use the offense.

SHANE PINTO OTT

ALL OF A SUDDEN, THE SENATORS have a lot of options at center, with Pinto, Josh Norris, Claude Giroux and Tim Stutzle all capable of playing down the middle. While someone will have to shift to the wing, it's worth keeping an eye on Pinto this season after he missed almost all of last year with a shoulder injury. An excellent athlete who already looks like a steal as a second-rounder, Pinto can put up points, win faceoffs and kill penalties. His dogged, two-way game will come in handy as Ottawa attempts to push into the next phase of its rebuild.

MASON McTAVISH ANA

CALL HIM 'SUITCASE' MCTAVISH, because he was everywhere last season: Anaheim, AHL San Diego, OHL Peterborough and Hamilton, plus the world juniors and Olympics with Team Canada. So, yeah, his skills were in demand. McTavish spent the most time with Hamilton, where he helped the Bulldogs claim an OHL title and Memorial Cup final berth, smashing the competition with 40 points in 24 games along the way. With his combination of skill and physical edge, he's got scoring-line center written all over him. He's ready to step in and do some damage.

ALEX HOLTZ NJ

HE GOT A TASTE OF THE NHL last season, but perhaps even more important to Holtz's development was the time he spent in the AHL with Utica. The sniping Swede really rounded out his game in upstate New York and took a big leap for a kid who was still in his teens when 2021-22 began. With New Jersey adding Ondrej Palat to a group that also includes wingers such as Yegor Sharangovich and Jesper Bratt, Holtz will have to prove he belongs in that company. If he can show off his patented scoring touch early on, he'll be one to watch.

KENT JOHNSON CLB

OK, SO JOHNSON MIGHT NOT BE the most anticipated new forward on the Blue Jackets this year, but he's a pretty tantalizing talent in his own right. The Michigan alum saw his first NHL action at the end of last season, and while putting on weight has been a challenge for the youngster, there's no doubting what his offensive mind and slick hands mean for his NHL future. With Johnny Gaudreau and Patrik Laine manning the top line, Johnson has the chance to stake his claim on another unit and potentially wreak havoc as opposing teams are forced to guard the veteran scorers.

JACK QUINN BUF

WHILE JJ PETERKA – another potential top rookie for Buffalo – led AHL Rochester in scoring last season, Quinn was only seven points behind in 25 fewer games. A scoring ace who has added to his shooting and skating ability, Quinn can play a 200-foot game, and he really took a step forward with the Amerks in his first full pro season. He also got into two NHL games and acquitted himself well with two points. Now the challenge is to prove he should be the next one to come up and make noise with the growing Buffalo squad.

JAKE SANDERSON OTT

WHILE THE SENATORS have plenty of new options up front, the defense corps could use some more talent, and Sanderson is a perfect candidate. His sophomore NCAA season with North Dakota was a smashing success, as the two-way D-man added more offense to his game. Bad injury luck hampered some of Sanderson's experiences last year (including a short stint with Team USA at the Olympics), but there's no doubting his potential. With all his tools, he's the type of player Ottawa needs on the blueline.

SLAFKOVSKY: GEORGE WALKER IV-USA TODAY SPORTS; PINTO: MARC DESROSIERS-USA TODAY SPORTS; MCTAVISH: BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS; HOLTZ: ED MULHOLLAND-USA TODAY SPORTS; JOHNSON: JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA-USA TODAY SPORTS;
QUINN: TIMOTHY T. LUDWIG-USA TODAY SPORTS; SANDERSON: UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

BY RYAN KENNEDY

TOP 50

PLAYERS IN THE NHL

Always controversial and always a trial to put together, our top 50 players in the NHL continues to be a difficult list to compile. We're in a talented time for the league, and with young players contributing early and often, the veterans have to stay on their toes if they want to make the grade.

1. CONNOR McDAVID

C • Edmonton Oilers

For years now, McDavid's reign over the NHL had only really been tempered by his team's lack of success. But McDavid's Oilers made the post-season again in 2022 and went all the way to the Western Conference final before injuries and goaltending woes led to a sweep at the hands of Colorado. And since the Avs went on to win the Stanley Cup, Edmonton's loss doesn't seem so bad.

What we did see in the Oilers' post-season run was McDavid and Leon Draisaitl on an offensive level that hasn't been witnessed in decades. Just to frame it all up for you, McDavid won the playoff scoring race with 33 points in 16 games – even though he didn't play in the final series. He outpointed the likes of Nikita Kucherov and Conn Smythe Trophy winner Cale Makar, both of whom played several more games.

So after only making it past the first round once before, McDavid now has a taste of glory – and we're sure he wants to be drinking from the Cup as soon as possible. That's why he once again ascends to the top of our list. True, he didn't win the Hart Trophy last season, but he came close. The superstar center has won the MVP award twice already, while adding three Ted Lindsay Awards (MVP as voted by the players) and four Art Ross Trophies. All in just seven years of service.

As we've seen with the likes of Sidney Crosby and Alex Ovechkin, superstars have a much longer prime than that of mere mortal NHLers. McDavid is 25, and it's not outside the realm of possibility that he continues to rack up 100-plus point seasons for another half-decade, if not longer. Right now, he's at the top of his powers.

PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS; RON CHENOY-USA TODAY SPORTS; SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

AUSTON **MATTHEWS**

2. AUSTON MATTHEWS

C • Toronto Maple Leafs

He just claimed his first Hart Trophy – the first by a Maple Leaf since Ted Kennedy won it in 1955 – and set a franchise record with 60 goals in a season where he missed nine games due to injury. So has Matthews peaked? Oh no, not by a long shot. As the big center continues to evolve his game, he'll become even more dangerous. Goaltenders still can't pick up the release point on his shot, and Matthews has also become a much more complete player defensively. So when he doesn't have the puck, he's been getting it back a lot quicker lately. Could 65 goals be in his near future? Don't bet against it.

3. CALE MAKAR

D • Colorado Avalanche

When Wayne Gretzky mentions you in the same sentence as Bobby Orr, it means you're doing something right. And while Makar has years to go before we can even consider that rarefied air, he is coming off a season in which he won the Conn Smythe Trophy, Norris Trophy and Stanley Cup. Makar's offensive toolbox is incredible – he led Avalanche players in playoff scoring – but it's the way he uses his amazing skating at both ends of the ice that sets him apart. Makar can effortlessly break the puck out on transition and also chase down the fastest in the game to eliminate scoring chances.

4. LEON DRAISAITL

C • Edmonton Oilers

You could see the pain Draisaitl was going through during Edmonton's post-season run, but he played through a high-ankle sprain and managed to finish second in playoff scoring to McDavid. The sheer will and power that Draisaitl brings to the ice is a sight to behold, and when married with the skills he possesses, it's no wonder he has been one of the most effective elite players in the NHL for years. He's averaged an astounding 1.42 points per game over the past four seasons. Outsiders may think he's overshadowed by McDavid in Edmonton, but Oilers fans know just how important Draisaitl is to the team's fortunes.

NATHAN **MACKINNON**

5. NATHAN MacKINNON

C • Colorado Avalanche

He got his Stanley Cup and was surely joking when he said his fitness would probably go down the tubes this summer. Let's face it: you don't get much more competitive than MacKinnon, and his performance in the playoffs was exactly what we've come to expect. His speed and physicality were on full display, as were his leadership and ability to come through when the Avs needed him the most. He may not have led Colorado in playoff scoring, but guess who provided the offense in the Game 6 Cup-clincher against the Lightning? And you know 'Nate Dogg' is coming back for more.

TOP: JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS; BOTTOM: PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS

IGOR SHESTERKIN

NICK TURCHIARO-USA TODAY SPORTS

6. JOHNNY GAUDREAU

LW • Columbus Blue Jackets

The bombshell of free agency was 'Johnny Hockey' leaving Calgary and heading to the 614 – now it's time to see what he can do for the Blue Jackets. Gaudreau is coming off his first triple-digit-points season (115 with the Flames), and his all-world playmaking skills are as sharp as ever. He also finished fourth in Hart Trophy voting, matching the best result of his career (back in 2018-19). Columbus fans instantly started dreaming about what Gaudreau's passes could do for sniper Patrik Laine, and if there's chemistry there, the Jackets' power play will be a sight to behold. Fire up the cannon!

7. ANDREI VASILEVSKIY

G • Tampa Bay Lightning

Igor Shesterkin won the Vezina, but it was 'Vasy' winning when it mattered most head-to-head in the playoffs. In an era where elite goaltending is hard to find, Tampa Bay know it's set in net.

8. IGOR SHESTERKIN

G • New York Rangers

He carried the Rangers for large stretches of the regular season, earning his first Vezina and finishing third in Hart voting. Shesterkin can carry a heavy load, and he's just getting started.

9. ROMAN JOSI

D • Nashville Predators

The Swiss ace actually received more first-place Norris votes than Makar but lost down-ballot. No worries, he's still an incredible all-around defenseman with high offensive upside.

10. VICTOR HEDMAN

D • Tampa Bay Lightning

You can't teach 6-foot-6, but Hedman is so much more than his size. His two-way game is excellent, and his mobility is a dream for most big men. The hunger is there for more titles, too.

11. ALEKSANDER BARKOV

C • Florida Panthers

Barkov flirted with 40 goals for the first time last season, finishing with 39. But it's more about his two-way game, as he's become a stalwart on Selke ballots and will remain so for years.

12. KIRILL KAPRIZOV

LW • Minnesota Wild

Kaprizov rang up 108 points and nearly 50 goals as a sophomore. He's one of the top offensive threats in the NHL, though losing Kevin Fiala means he'll be even more of an enemy target.

13. ADAM FOX

D • New York Rangers

Fox has quickly become one of the best offensive defensemen in the game. His smarts and skills put him in the top Norris tier – he's won one already – and he can straight-up produce.

14. CHARLIE McAVOY

D • Boston Bruins

Still a little underrated, McAvoy will start the year on the shelf due to shoulder surgery. When he's on, he's a two-way minute-muncher with great mobility and a physical edge.

15. MITCH MARNER

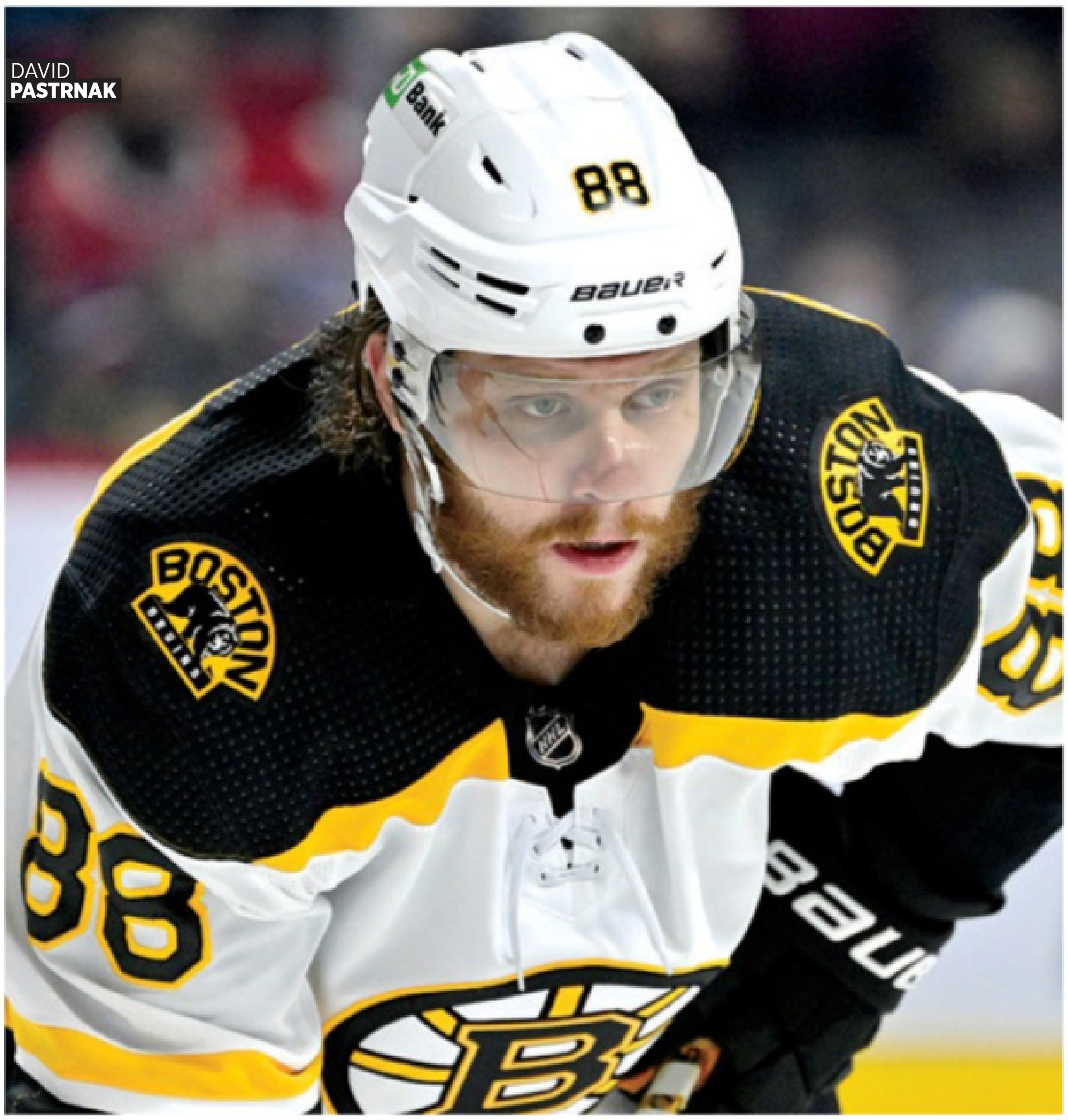
RW • Toronto Maple Leafs

Back-to-back first-team all-star nods put him near the top of the winger pile, and his 97 points last year were a career high. Marner's PK acumen makes him a shorthanded threat, too.

16. MATTHEW TKACHUK

LW • Florida Panthers

His combination of skill, smarts and physicality – not to mention the ability to drive opponents up the wall – makes him a two-way threat with few comparables in today's game. This Cat has claws.


DAVID
PASTRNAK

17. STEVEN STAMKOS

C • Tampa Bay Lightning

At 32, the two-time Rocket Richard winner put up his first triple-digit season (106 points). 'Stammer' was also great in the playoffs, blocking shots, playing physically and shadowing on defense.

18. DAVID PASTRNAK

RW • Boston Bruins

One of the most lethal wingers in the game. His goal-scoring ranks among the best in the league, and when he's playing with Patrice Bergeron and Brad Marchand, it's practically art.

19. NIKITA KUCHEROV

RW • Tampa Bay Lightning

Few see the game like Kucherov, and his passing is on par with his shot, so opponents have to respect both options. A strong playoff performance elevated an injury-shortened regular season.

20. SIDNEY CROSBY

C • Pittsburgh Penguins

Coming off his best season in years. With the Pens bringing back old buddies Evgeni Malkin and Kris Letang, the captain will continue to have weapons to play with as he leads the charge.

21. JONATHAN HUBERDEAU

LW • Calgary Flames

Huberdeau's breakout 2021-22 campaign saw him hit 115 points, more than 20 over his previous career high. His speed and playmaking ability will be front and center for the Flames.

22. BRAD MARCHAND

LW • Boston Bruins

'The Perfection Line' may be aging, but Marchand hasn't let up. He remains a two-way force who helps the Bruins in every situation. Plus, he still has that physical, agitating edge.

ERIC BOLTE-USA TODAY SPORTS

23. KYLE CONNOR

LW • Winnipeg Jets

The speedy, skilled winger is coming off a career year with 93 points – more than 20 ahead of the next-highest Jets scorer. Connor also took home the Lady Byng Trophy.

24. ARTEMI PANARIN

LW • New York Rangers

Panarin's rare level of offensive intelligence has made him a premier playmaker in the NHL for years. The Rangers need his contributions up front as they try to engineer a Cup run.

25. JACOB MARKSTROM

G • Calgary Flames

OK, so the playoff series against Edmonton wasn't good. Markstrom's job now is to rebound back to his usual excellent self, as the big goalie has the skills to be one of the best in the game.

26. J.T. MILLER

C • Vancouver Canucks

The hipster Hart pick may not have resonated with all voters, but it speaks to Miller's value to the Canucks that he got a nod. Two-way ace flirted with 100 points for the first time ever.

27. FILIP FORSBERG

RW • Nashville Predators

Re-signing Forsberg was huge for the Preds, and now he can continue his work as the franchise's best-ever goal-scorer. He's coming off a career-high 42 tallies, and he's far from done.

28. ALEX OVECHKIN

LW • Washington Capitals

With the future of running mate Nicklas Backstrom in question, 'Ovi' faces a demanding year. But the Caps captain has proven he's still got his fastball when it comes to goal-scoring.

29. CHRIS KREIDER

LW • New York Rangers

Kreider has always been a powerful athlete, but he truly broke out last season, firing 52 goals – nearly double his previous career-best. If he can keep it up, the Rangers will be a tough out.

30. JACCOB SLAVIN

D • Carolina Hurricanes

The unflappable Slavin has forged a unique path as a premier shutdown D-man and perennial Lady Byng candidate. His stickwork and smarts are sublime, and his offense continues to rise.

31. PATRICK KANE

RW • Chicago Blackhawks

Even with all the miles that Kane has on his odometer, the speed and breathtaking skills are still there. The question now, of course: who is he going to pass to in Chicago?

32. BRAYDEN POINT

C • Tampa Bay Lightning

A tough injury limited his usage in the playoffs, but when Point is healthy, he's one of the most dangerous centers around. He has defined what a smaller pivot can do in the NHL.

33. JUUSE SAROS

G • Nashville Predators

Speaking of redefining roles, Saros is a true No. 1 goalie who has managed to rack up wins in Nashville without the benefit of a big frame. Played a ton and finished third in Vezina voting.

34. AARON EKBLAD

D • Florida Panthers

Ekblad's 57 points last year smashed his previous high, and he compiled them despite missing 21 games. His size, skill and two-way game make him imposing. A healthy season is all he asks.

35. ELIAS LINDHOLM

C • Calgary Flames

Lindholm made a statement by playing elite two-way hockey for the Flames last season. His 42 goals and 82 points were both career highs, and his shutdown work was exemplary.

36. SEBASTIAN AHO

C • Carolina Hurricanes

Aho remains a high-end center who can both score and dish. He once again flirted with 40 goals last season and with the Canes adding more weapons, there's going to be even more offense.

J.T. MILLER

BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS

JASON
ROBERTSON

NICK TURCHIARO-USA TODAY SPORTS

37. RYAN O'REILLY

C • St. Louis Blues

One of the premier two-way centers in the game, O'Reilly is a constant Selke contender year after year. He can shut you down, but he can also make you pay with some underrated puck skills.

38. MIKA ZIBANEJAD

C • New York Rangers

Zibanejad has had some wicked runs the past few years, and he's comfortable as both a shooter and a set-up man. He had a career high in assists (52) two years after a career high in goals (41).

39. ALEX DEBRINCAT

LW • Ottawa Senators

It's going to be fun in Ottawa. DeBrincat comes in as one of the most underrated snipers in the league, and he's got help up front in Claude Giroux, Brady Tkachuk, Tim Stutzle and others.

40. MIKKO RANTANEN

RW • Colorado Avalanche

The big, marauding winger was integral to the Avs' Cup run, driving his line for stretches. His size, speed and skill are unquestioned, and he played with more of an edge in the playoffs.

41. JASON ROBERTSON

LW • Dallas Stars

They said he couldn't skate; now they say he can't be stopped. Robertson broke out for 41 goals as a sophomore, and he'll continue to be a crucial part of the Stars' offensive attack.

42. VLADIMIR TARASENKO

RW • St. Louis Blues

Things looked grim for Tarasenko and the Blues heading into 2021-22 due to shoulder problems and tension over related surgeries, but the Masterton nominee hit a career-high 82 points.

43. EVGENI MALKIN

C • Pittsburgh Penguins

After some contract drama, 'Geno' is back in black and gold just as the hockey gods intended. When he's healthy, the future Hall of Famer is still a beast down the middle.

44. MARK STONE

RW • Vegas Golden Knights

Vegas needs a rebound from several players, and for Stone, that means staying healthy. He's one of the best defensive forwards in the game, and he's an accomplished offensive weapon as well.

45. NAZEM KADRI

C • UFA

Few players break out for their best season when they're over 30, but Kadri's 87 points in 71 games was easily a career best. He propelled the Avs in the playoffs – even after a broken thumb.

46. BRADY TKACHUK

LW • Ottawa Senators

The Senators need continued growth from their power-forward captain – and they're sure to get it. The fiery, competitive Tkachuk has the talent to keep checkers honest in the O-zone.

47. GABRIEL LANDESKOG

LW • Colorado Avalanche

The captain of the Cup champs was excellent in the playoffs, with a lot of great 'D' work while contributing on offense. A complete two-way player who meshes well with elite linemates.

48. DEVON TOEWS

D • Colorado Avalanche

He is more than Makar's defense partner – Toews is an excellent transition D-man himself. He got some Norris love last year, and with his two-way game and career-high 57 points, it's no wonder.

49. MIRO HEISKANEN

D • Dallas Stars

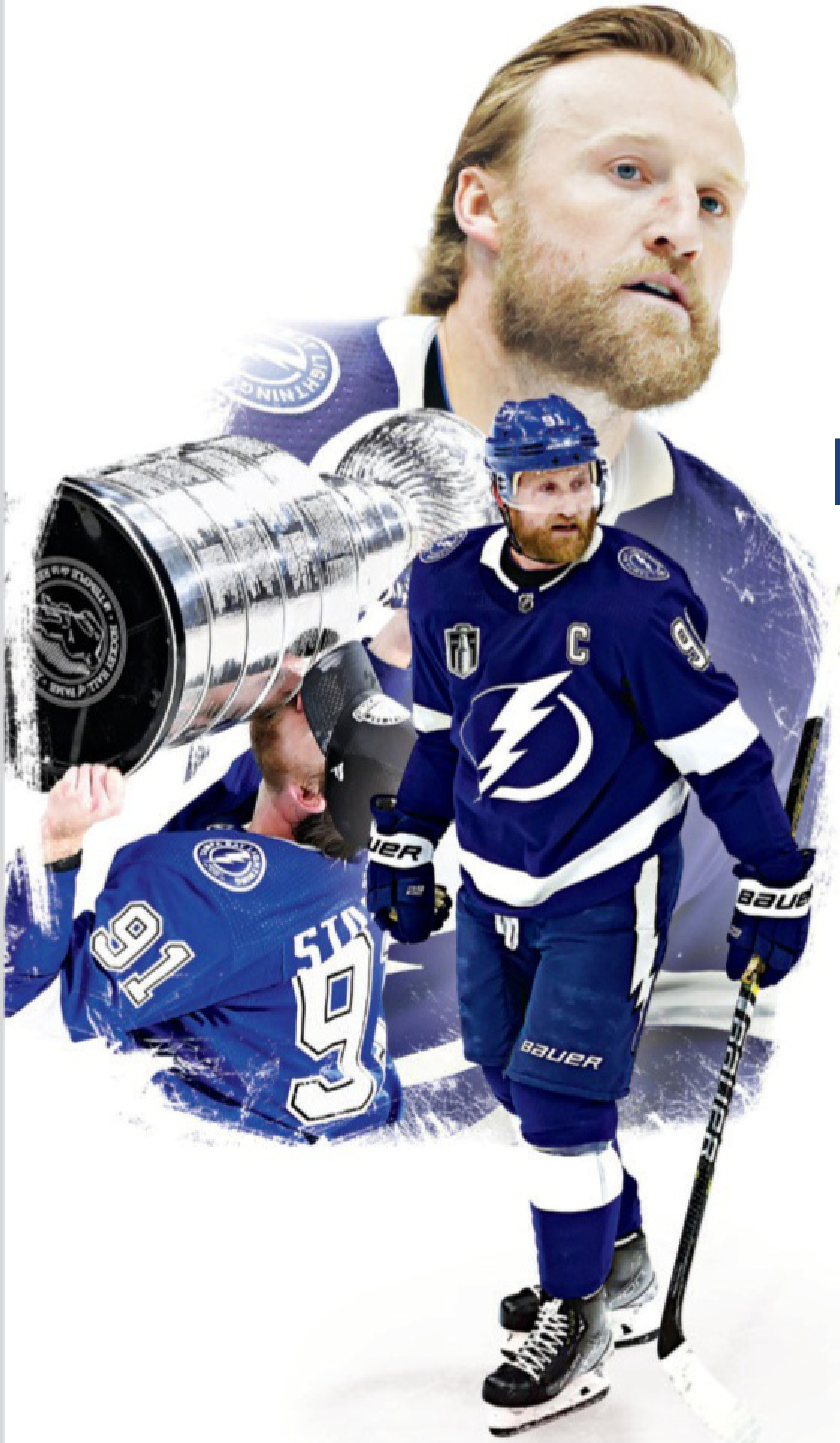
The smooth Heiskanen continues to grow his offensive game while providing great skating to get the puck out of his own zone. With Klingberg gone, Dallas needs Heiskanen more than ever.

50. JACK EICHEL

C • Vegas Golden Knights

Eichel contributed to the Knights' offense once he recovered from neck surgery, and now he has a chance to show what he can do with talent around him. The playoffs are a must for Vegas.

IT AIN'T OV



Tampa Bay was denied on its three-peat bid, but don't turn out the lights on Steven Stamkos & Co. quite yet – the Lightning still have some Cup contending left in them

BY RYAN KENNEDY

THE FACT HE WAS EVEN in a position to do it was remarkable. Steven Stamkos, playing for his third consecutive Stanley Cup, would have been the first captain since New York Islanders' Hall of Famer Denis Potvin to win at least three straight titles. Wayne Gretzky never did it, neither did Mario Lemieux, Steve Yzerman nor Sidney Crosby.

Stamkos and the Lightning fell short of their goal, losing the final in six games to Colorado. But during their run, Stamkos demonstrated why he's one of the most underrated leaders in the game. "My first year, I played with Vincent Lecavalier and Martin St-Louis and our GM was Steve Yzerman," said Ondrej Palat. "I knew them a little, but 'Stammer' is right up there."

During Tampa Bay's 2020 Cup run, Stamkos was unfortunately a bystander for most of the proceedings. He had missed the final quarter of the regular season and virtually all of the playoffs with a lower-body muscle/core injury, and, due to the pandemic-impacted schedule, that meant he was out of the game for about seven months. But he knew he had to make a contribution.

In Game 3 of the Cup final against Dallas, Stamkos took a Victor Hedman pass at the offensive blueline, squeezed by a Stars defender and ripped a shot past goalie Anton Khudobin for a 2-0 Tampa Bay lead. It was Stamkos' third shift of the game and his first shot on net. It turned out to be his only action of the series, but it left an indelible mark on his teammates, who went on to beat Dallas in six games. "We were talking to him on off-days, and you could see the frustration that he would

LEFT: MARK J. REBILAS-USA TODAY SPORTS; KIM KLEMENT-USA TODAY SPORTS; DOUGLAS DEFELICE-USA TODAY SPORTS; RIGHT: RON CHENOY-USA TODAY SPORTS

ER TILL IT'S OVER

love to play with us, love to be on the bench," Palat said. "He played that one game, and to see him score that goal, it was one of the best moments of my career. The way he helped out in that final was unbelievable."

Defenseman Ryan McDonagh – who was traded to Nashville after this year's final – appreciated what Stamkos did for the team, even when the captain wasn't healthy enough to make on-ice contributions, too. "The days in between games, talking to guys 1-on-1 or talking to the team as a whole, what's great about 'Stammer' is that his knowledge of the game is so strong," McDonagh said. "He's got a great awareness of where the team is at, what a player might be going through and how he could help them, and he has a willingness to sacrifice and help anyone on the team."

Two years later, Stamkos is sitting at a podium for media day at yet another Cup final. The room is festooned with giant banners, featuring legendary captains and leaders of previous champions – himself included. "I mean, you can just see the emotions on everyone's faces," Stamkos said. "That's pretty special. My teeth look a lot better now, but...it's surreal. You dream of winning the Cup, but being in the moment is amazing."

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of Stamkos' attempt at a three-peat was how involved he was in all facets of the game. Sure, he was an offensive force as usual, tying for third in Lightning playoff scoring with 19 points in 23 games – but it was everything else that made the Bolts such a tough out. Stamkos was physical, capable of showing a nasty side, and he brought some hound-like defensive tendencies against hot-shot Colorado weapons such as Nathan MacKinnon in the hard-fought series. "He's been such an unbelievable leader for us," said center Anthony Cirelli. "He does all the things the right way. When he's blocking shots, finishing hits, winning his battles and doing all the little things right, it gets all the guys up. Even in the room, if there's ever a time where something needs to be said, he's stepping up to calm us down or get us going. 'Stammer' has been such a great leader for us on and off the ice."

For a player who made his name as a wicked shooter and two-time Rocket Richard Trophy winner, it would've been easy for Stamkos to get his 35-plus goals a year and consider it a job well done. But once No. 91 got a taste for the Cup, he was going back for more. After largely playing spectator in 2020, Stamkos was back in full force for Tampa Bay's five-game Cup

STANLEY OR BUST
Stamkos and the Bolts came up short against the Avs in the final, but the motivation and manpower remains.

victory over Montreal in 2021 and gunning for another title this year. “We haven’t rested on the past couple years,” he said. “It would’ve been really easy to do, right? You’ve had success, you’re down a couple games against a really good team in Toronto (in the first round), and you could’ve said, ‘OK, let’s get some rest, we’ve had a long couple years.’ But that’s not the makeup of this team. Having played as long as I have, you realized the potential this group had, and you don’t want to waste those opportunities. Some guys never even get a chance to play in the final. We realized how special this group is, and we’ve always talked about not wasting those opportunities.”

The road to perennial-contender status was a long one for Stamkos and the Lightning. After all, when Tampa Bay won the right to select him first overall out of OHL Sarnia at the 2008 draft, the Lightning as a franchise were in a ditch. Stamkos was the new hope, so much so that the organization famously put up “Seen Stamkos?” billboards around town to hype his arrival, even before the draft had taken place. Franchise legends Lecavalier and St-Louis – two of the engines for Tampa Bay’s first Cup win in 2004 – were still in town, but results were not coming the way they used to. The team finished last in the Southeast Division both before and after drafting Stamkos, and the youngster’s rookie year was initially held back by the coaching of Barry Melrose, who was fired after 16 games and never coached again.

As Stamkos grew, so did the Lightning as an organization. Jeff Vinik purchased the team in 2010, and from there, it was a matter of putting the right people in place to build around a nucleus of Stamkos, Hedman and eventually Nikita Kucherov, Andrei Vasilevskiy and Brayden Point, among others. So how different is the culture now, versus when Stamkos arrived in Tampa Bay? “It’s night and day,” he said. “I certainly didn’t know what to expect coming in as an 18-year-old, and it was pretty crazy the first couple years. Mr. Vinik came in and just solidified the franchise. You bring in Steve Yzerman and (CEO) Tod Leiweke and some amazing parts that brought that instant respect to the organization. Then, obviously you’ve seen what the organization has been built into and what we do in the community following in the footsteps of Mr. Vinik and his family, it’s amazing.

“For the people who haven’t had a chance to come down to Tampa, you really should because it’s probably one of the best places you can come watch a hockey game. The on-ice success helps that, but the culture we’ve built, it’s not just how you play on the ice, it’s who you are as a person and how you fit in the group and the community. The trade-deadline guys and free agents we brought in the past couple years are great players, but they also fit in the mold of what we want as players and people. That’s why we’ve had so much success.”

Being able to keep the crew together has played a big role. Much has been made of the “hometown discounts” players such as Stamkos and Hedman have taken over the years in order to make sure there’s still cap space for the supporting cast, and even then, GM Julien BriseBois has been forced to make some daring moves to keep the party going.

Stamkos did entertain the open market back in 2016 when he was poised to become an unrestricted free agent, then ultimately decided to come back to the Lightning on an eight-year deal with an annual cap hit of $8.5 million. Not surprisingly, Hedman signed his own eight-year extension just two days later, with a cap hit of $7.87 million. “We were definitely talking about it,” Stamkos said. “As soon as I knew I was sign-

DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS

> “I’ve talked about that feeling you have when you win it. It’s the best feeling you can have
>
> **– Steven Stamkos**

FRANCHISE FACES
With linchpins like Stamkos and Hedman still in place, the Bolts' time as a top contender isn't over by a long shot.

KIM KLEMENT-USA TODAY SPORTS

ing, we talked and he said, 'OK, I'm getting mine done, too.' It feels like forever ago, but obviously a decision that has worked out for both of us. 'Heddy' and I have seen this through, so let's keep going."

The two have been cornerstones of the team for more than a decade, with Hedman drafted second overall in 2009, one year after Stamkos. "We're the best of friends, and now we're both married with kids," Stamkos said. "It's pretty crazy, we came in as such young guys, wide-eyed and not knowing what to expect. We had some early success going to the conference final, and then some heartaches and tough times. We've gone through it all together, and that's what you want as a player, to be there when it starts and to see it come full circle and win a championship. We've certainly built something amazing in Tampa, and it's been great to do it with him."

Hedman has won a Norris Trophy, finished as a finalist five other times and taken home the Conn Smythe Trophy from Tampa Bay's 2020 Cup win, while Stamkos amazingly just put up his best offensive season at 32 with 106 points. "He's my best friend, and we've grown up together," Hedman said. "We've been here for a very long time, and he's been through the ups and downs with me."

So it's fair to say that Stamkos has had the exact impact – and then some – on the Lightning that the organization hoped he would way back in 2008. What's most exciting is that he and his cohorts clearly are not finished yet. Think about it: Tampa Bay pushed a high-octane Colorado outfit to six games and did so basically without Brayden Point, who tore his quad muscle in the first round against Toronto and only suited up for two games in the final. Vasilevskiy, Kucherov, Cirelli, Stamkos and Hedman will all still be excellent contributors next season, and the fact the Avalanche denied the Bolts a three-peat will not sit well with a group that has been accustomed to winning. "We embraced the challenge after the first one about winning back to back, and you think positive thoughts that go into creating some amazing memories that we've had the past couple of years," Stamkos said. "I've talked about that feeling you have when you win it. It's the best feeling you can ever have as an athlete, and it motivates you even more."

And while BriseBois was forced to trade McDonagh as he attempts to keep the Bolts cap-compliant heading into 2022-23, the mission is clear for all involved: continue to reign over the Eastern Conference and be that bogeyman team that no opponent wants to face in a seven-game series.

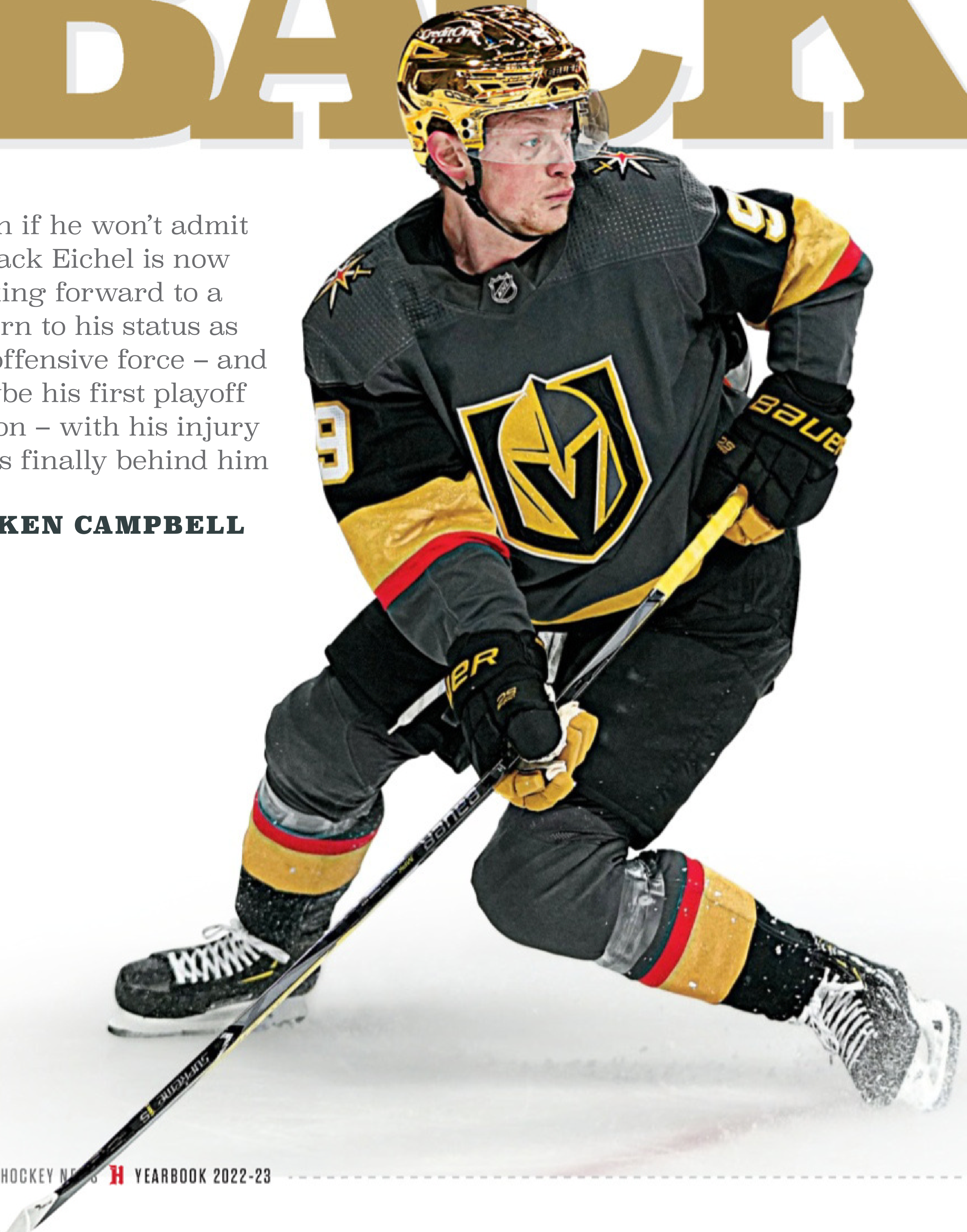
New Philadelphia Flyers coach John Tortorella, who was helming the Columbus Blue Jackets when they swept a shocked Tampa Bay team in the first round of 2019, recently joked that he and his Jackets "created a monster" when they humiliated the Lightning that year. Between that miss and the loss to Colorado, Tampa Bay didn't lose a single playoff series. "Look at how that team played versus how our team plays now," Stamkos said. "There are a lot of differences. There's a lot more sacrifice. A lot of guys had career years and statistics and this and that, but our ultimate goal is to win. The egos are checked at the door for sure, and that takes a while sometimes. Guys have realized that, and now it's all about winning."

And in Tampa Bay, it starts right at the very top, with the captain. H

JACK'S BACK

Even if he won't admit it, Jack Eichel is now looking forward to a return to his status as an offensive force – and maybe his first playoff action – with his injury woes finally behind him

BY KEN CAMPBELL



STEPHEN R. SYLVANIE-USA TODAY SPORTS

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

SECOND CHANCE

Eichel is embracing a fresh start in Vegas after a difficult season in which just about everything went wrong for him.

IN THE LAZY, HAZY days of summer between Reilly Smith's charity softball game and William Karlsson's wedding, John Robert Eichel was busy and tired. But it was a good busy and tired. He's getting to the age where a lot of his friends are getting married, and with all the weddings and bachelor parties and charity softball games and a full training regimen, his calendar was overflowing. Months removed from the rigors of what turned out to be the most *annus horribilis* of his career – and that's saying something considering he played for the Buffalo Sabres – Eichel was having a good time trying to keep up with it all. "You always feel good in the summer, right?" he said in mid-July. "Everybody feels good right now."

Feeling good is a relative term, though, no? A year prior, Eichel certainly didn't feel great. He was in a major imbroglio with his own team, trying to train through a major injury and going through times when he might've wondered for what end goal he was even training. Entering 2021-22, Eichel was basically a man without a team, with a disc in his neck that needed to be surgically repaired almost as badly as did his relationship with the Sabres. Equal parts tragedy, comedy and farce, Eichel's standoff with Buffalo over exactly how to repair the damage dominated headlines and had hockey people debating whether the same players who often refuse to pull themselves out of the lineup should be trusted with making the best decisions for their long-term health.

But enough about the past. Let's focus on the present. Ugh. So in November, Eichel gets traded to Vegas, where management is fully prepared to allow him to become the first player in NHL history to have an artificial disc placed in his neck. The Golden Knights have become the most likely destination for star players, whether they're disgruntled or not, and Vegas appears to have become the gold standard for both excellence and dysfunction all at the same time. But nobody saw this outcome. Competing in the weakest division in the NHL and having never missed the playoffs in their four-year history, the Golden Knights became a voodoo doll for the hockey gods, who took no shortage of delight in sticking pins into them to take them down a peg or three. It's almost as though the Golden Misfits slowly became the Evil Empire and were receiving their comeuppance. Even after Eichel arrived, he couldn't shake the shadow of injury. Not long after making his Vegas debut, Eichel broke his thumb and played the last six weeks with the injury, which didn't stop him from scoring 16 points in the Golden Knights' final 20 games. But Vegas missed the playoffs, bringing Eichel's regular-season total to 409 games without seeing post-season action.

The Golden Knights, meanwhile, have had to unload players for nothing to become compliant with the salary cap, but with a healthy, happy and (hopefully) productive No. 1 center feeling refreshed and even reborn, both Eichel and the team are looking forward to better days. "I just want to get back to that impactful player I was in the past," Eichel said. "I obviously had the injury and the surgery and the time off, but I'm not going to make any excuses. Obviously, last year wasn't as good as I wanted it to be when I came back, and I'm sure all the guys would agree it wasn't what we wanted to accomplish as a group. I thought there were definitely some games where I felt good, felt like I was trying to make an impact on the game. In my position with our group, it's important to step up in big situations and help the team win hockey games, and there were a lot of opportunities last year that I probably would have liked to make more of an impact, but I hadn't played a lot of hockey, and it wasn't by any means my best, but there were some positives to take away from it."

While rehabbing last summer, Eichel began training with Andy O'Brien, whose client list – headed by Sidney Crosby – reads like a sports hall of fame. Eichel and O'Brien were able to work within the limitations of Eichel's injury last summer and provide a foundation, one upon which they were able to really start building in the summer of 2022. O'Brien describes Eichel as a "physically unique athlete," one who combines size and power with incred-

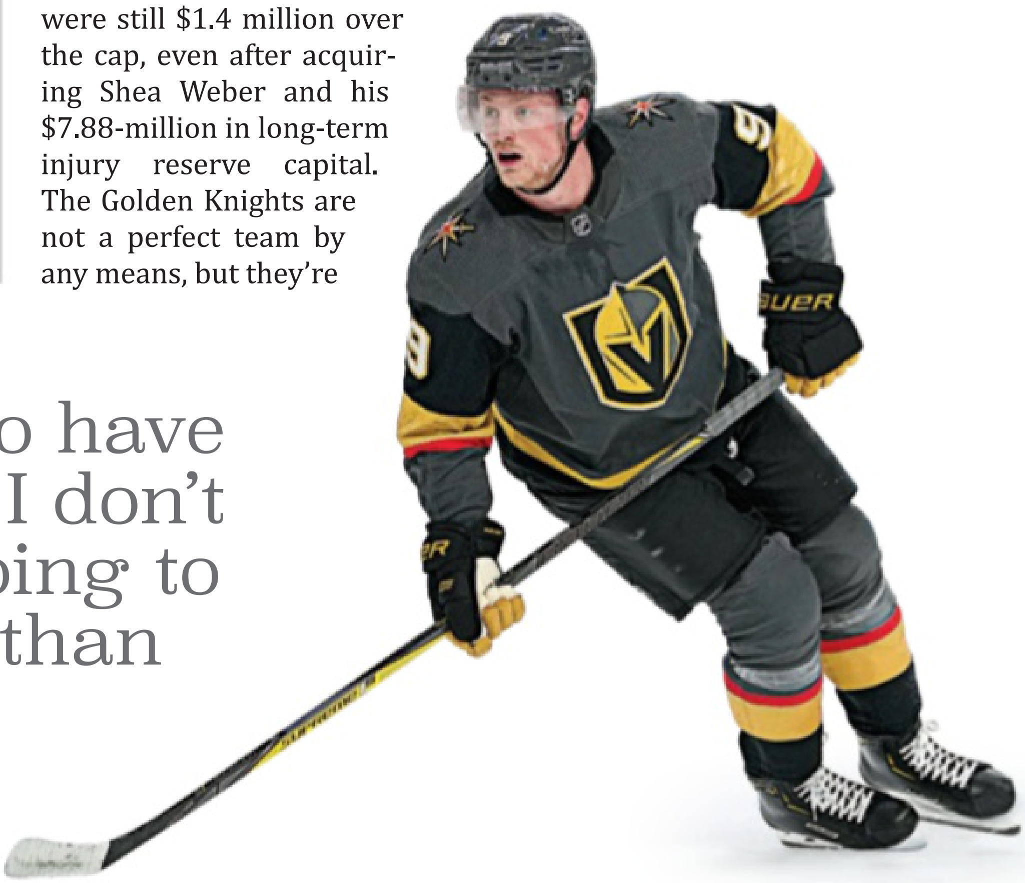
HEALTH CHECK
Eichel came back from neck surgery only to break his thumb last season. But he says he's feeling good again.

ible speed and deftness. O'Brien splits his time among Toronto, Montreal and Florida during the hockey season and spends July and August in Halifax, and he was struck by the fact that Eichel was prepared to go to any one of those venues to work on his program. "I was actually impressed with his maturity and how he handled it," said O'Brien of Eichel working through the injury and the off-ice distractions. "It wasn't something that came out where he was actually visibly distracted. He was actually very focused. When he started working with me, he was committed to fly where I was. For a guy who's pretty high-profile, he was like, 'I'll go anywhere, I'll do whatever is necessary.' He struck me as a guy who's all-in, very focused."

That kind of focus has always been a hallmark of Eichel's game, from the time he starred in his suburban Boston hometown to being the most sought-after college recruit in the country, to his one-season stop at Boston University, where he was so dominant that he won the Hobey Baker Award – which goes to the most outstanding player in U.S. college hockey – as a freshman. Eichel, the son of a nurse and a plumbing-warehouse foreman, has always been singularly focused on being an NHL star – not just an NHL player, but a star. His competitive level is off the charts, which made it even more difficult for him to watch as the Golden Knights' season went down the sinkhole in 2021-22 amid a deluge of injuries and organizational chaos. As his season-ending news conference wound down and there were no further questions, Golden Knights GM Kelly McCrimmon said he was, "happy to talk about the dysfunction." The expectation level will be elevated this season, which is something that Eichel welcomes.

"It's always good to have expectations, but I don't think anyone's going to be harder on me than I am on myself," Eichel said. "You need to temper those expectations, but for the most part, I think expecting a lot of yourself brings out the best out in people, myself included. When I'm expecting a lot of myself, it really tends to push me. And it's that competitiveness of hockey players and myself, wanting to be the best, wanting to win. There's always more. You can always do better, so if you ask anyone, I don't think anyone is ever satisfied unless you win the Stanley Cup at the end of the year. Those are the only guys who are really satisfied, and even they're probably saying, 'I could have done this better, or I could have done that better.' "

But this season is a clean slate, both for the Golden Knights and Eichel. Their roster has indeed taken a hit – like, who is going to replace Max Pacioretty's goals? – but they were beginning to see the end of the dark tunnel when it came to their place in salary-cap hell. Almost. During the off-season, they were still $1.4 million over the cap, even after acquiring Shea Weber and his $7.88-million in long-term injury reserve capital. The Golden Knights are not a perfect team by any means, but they're



> "It's always good to have expectations, but I don't think anyone's going to be harder on me than I am on myself
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TOP: BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS; BOTTOM: STEPHEN R. SYLVANIE-USA TODAY SPORTS

certainly better than their battered and bruised roster showed last season. Whether or not Vegas returns to contention will depend an awful lot on how a healthy Eichel performs for them. If he returns to being the player he was prior to his injury, Eichel will almost certainly make his playoff debut in a market that is one of the most engaged and raucous in the NHL. But his perspective on the matter is actually pretty healthy.

The way Eichel sees it, the playoffs are so far off and there is so much to be done before them that there's no sense obsessing about them. He prefers to set short-term goals, which will allow the long-term ones to take care of themselves. "That would eat away at anyone," said Eichel about the last year. "Not having that opportunity and not having done that yet is definitely something that is in the back of my mind and eats away at me, but you can't look at the playoffs this season in my mind right now. We're not making the playoffs tomorrow. We're not making the playoffs the day after that. If I just continue to do the things day after day that will help me, and if everyone takes that mindset, at the end of the day, you'll find yourself in a good position where you've accomplished something as a team."

Part of that journey for Eichel is feeling comfortable on the ice, but that can sometimes be easier said than done when you have an artificial disc in your neck. The uncertainty around getting back on the ice and absorbing contact from some of the largest and most physical athletes in the world vanished relatively quickly after Eichel began playing, three months after the surgery. You simply can't play in the best league in the world with fears or distractions. The process when he came back was a fairly quick one, but there were times when Eichel wondered what would result from a thunderous hit. Playing through a fractured thumb didn't help, but when he steps on the ice for the '22-23 campaign with his injury troubles behind him, it will be fascinating to see what he can accomplish.

"A perfect scenario in my mind is that he's not thinking about his body," O'Brien said. "Just that he feels we're not drawing too much attention to that anymore because we've had so much attention on that over the last little while. My hope is that he steps on the ice and feels good, the game is easy for him physically, and he can just focus on adapting to the situation in Vegas. Now that we have that behind us, it really is a totally clean slate. We have a healthy athlete who wants to train and also can train with a lot of the stuff behind him."

That begins with a new coach, but that's certainly nothing new for Eichel. He had four of them in five seasons with the Sabres, and when he begins playing for Bruce Cassidy, it will be the sixth coach he's had in the NHL in his eighth season. Eichel spent most of the summer working out at Boston University with a small group of NHL players who are also alumni, with short trips to work with O'Brien and update his program.

At 25 and with seven trying seasons behind him, there is a sense that we may see the best Eichel has to offer this season. He's proven in the past that he's a dynamic athlete, capable of being among the best offensive players in the league. "I don't want to say it's a new beginning," he said. "Last year was a new beginning. I just think this is another step in the process, and I'm excited. Our group should be excited. We underachieved last year, and we, as a group, have a lot that we want to prove to the league and to ourselves again, and it's a great opportunity to do that." H

BRAD REMPEL-USA TODAY SPORTS

COMING THROUGH
Vegas missed the playoffs last year, while Eichel has never made it at all. He's hoping to end both of those streaks in 2022-23.

CHALLENGE

ACCEP

Mitch Marner has already broken out as an offensive dynamo. But he believes his future in Toronto is even brighter – and to be clear, yes, he's talking playoffs

BY IAN KENNEDY

AS GOOD AS HE'S been, Mitch Marner is still getting better. He scores, notching 35 goals and 97 points in 72 games last season. That much is already known, but Marner also kills penalties, defends and makes those around him – including Hart Trophy-winning linemate Auston Matthews – better. Both Marner and Matthews thus found themselves as first-team all-stars at the end of last season.

It seems strange to call 2021-22 a "breakout" for a player who has now scored at more than a point-per-game pace for four straight seasons, but in many ways, Marner asserted himself and looked different last year. He looked confident – like a weight had been lifted – and he looked like he was having fun again. "The stress I put on myself, being angry at myself for wanting to do better and pushing myself, it weighed on me," said Marner of his early-season and past playoff struggles. "I was really taking in all the outside noise, but once I blocked that out, I got away from it and realized I could do a lot more and be a lot better. That's when my game elevated and I started having fun on the ice, bringing back my creative side and doing what I do best, and that's having fun and enjoying the moment. As soon as I started doing that, I really started taking off."

Marner, 25, is entering his seventh season in the NHL, all with the Toronto Maple Leafs, who selected him fourth overall in the 2015 draft. His tenure with Toronto has been watched and criticized closely. At times, the negativity took a toll on Marner. He and his coaches, however, believe he's has found a new faith in his own game. "We got him shooting more, and he's confident again," said Rob Desveaux, Marner's longtime skills coach who's worked with the Markham, Ont., native since Marner was four years old.

Desveaux believes that during Marner's initial seasons with Toronto, he lost the confidence he'd gained in junior with the OHL's London Knights and was used in a way that did not complement his skill set. Now, however, under Toronto's current coaches, Desveaux sees the player he's always known. He sees the Marner who always stepped on the ice excited, happy and ready to dominate. "When he steps

BUDDING WITH JOY
Marner reached new heights last season thanks largely to getting back to a point where he was just enjoying the game.

NICK TURCHIARO-USA TODAY SPORTS

TED

BAUER
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DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS

on the ice, he's smiling ear to ear," Desveaux said. "He loves it, he really likes to work hard, he really likes to get better, he always takes critiques, and he always asks questions. He eats up lessons, and he's willing to fix little things and bad habits. He's like a little kid at times in how much he enjoys the game and enjoys practising. To be a prime NHL player, you need to enjoy practising."

Desveaux pointed to Marner's evasion, deking and edgework as his calling cards at the NHL level, and he believes Marner – already one of the league's best passers – can be one of the best shooters as well. While Marner's offense took a jump last season, with career highs in goals and points, he took that step without sacrificing his two-way acumen, which he's become known for. "It's important to have your leaders have the responsibility to play both sides of the puck," said Marner of his defensive game. "If you can get your top guys doing it, then other guys really want to achieve. It's fun to be out there against other teams' best players and seeing what you can do to shut them down."

Defensive play will be crucial in Toronto taking the next step as a team. Marner and the Leafs have excelled in the regular season, but have notoriously struggled in the playoffs. But in 2021-22, Marner carried his dominance over to the post-season, notching eight points in seven games. It was a welcome boost for a team still looking to break through in the spring. "I played the way I should, enjoying the game, enjoying the process, enjoying the challenge," said Marner.

Despite his individual improvement, it didn't translate to team success, which Marner knows is the next step in the process. "For our team, it's just trusting what we're doing, and trusting the systems and what we'd been doing all year round and what we had in place. That was something we did well, but, obviously, we've got to take it to a brand-new level starting this year and build a brand-new foundation and make sure the leaders are pushing the way."

Marner and Matthews are those leaders. At times last season, they took games over, and they'll be expected to elevate to yet another level this season. "We want to push each other to be the best we can," Marner said. "The thing that elevated our game was we communicated a lot more last year about what we wanted to do, what we wanted to achieve. We talked a lot more about how teams are trying to play us and how we were going to play around that to break down the other teams' defense."

Marner is still on the rise, but despite creeping into superstar territory, he remains grounded and aware of his privilege as an NHL player. It's an understanding that has helped him not just face down adversity but learn and grow from it as a player and person. "We're just people that got lucky enough to be good enough at what we do to become professional at it," Marner said. "The thing for me was my family always told me to keep a level head, you're not bigger than anybody else. Be very respectful to anyone you meet because they look up to you or are inspired by you. There's still a kid in me that knows I'm pretty lucky to have people look up to me and want to aspire to be like me."

When the puck drops this season, the Maple Leafs, and the young fans who look up to Marner, will hope his growing confidence translates to team success, and soon, a Stanley Cup. "I'm always trying to level up my game and be a better me," Marner said. "I'm trying to become better and become more of an impact player every year."

CHRISTOPHER HANEWINCKEL-USA TODAY SPORTS

BEST IN SHOW

Juuse Saros faced the daunting challenge of replacing a franchise icon in the Predators' net. How'd it go? No other NHL goalie played more than Nashville's Vezina-nominated, puppy-loving netminder

BY KEN CAMPBELL

IF YOU WERE inclined to drop 20 bucks on a membership to the Preds Pet Club last season, you would have received, among other things, an autographed 5-by-7 photo of Juuse Saros and his Siberian Husky, Kesa. It probably goes without saying that the photo was signed by Saros, not Kesa. But where they actually had us was at the Preds Light Up Poop Bag Holder. Where do we sign up for that?

It turns out that aside from being one of the NHL's best goalies, Saros is also an animal lover. So much so that he actually has a tattoo of Kesa on his right forearm. The money raised by the Preds Pet Club goes to help local animal shelters and foster organizations, something that is near and dear to Saros' heart and the main reason why he was so keen to participate in it. In fact, last season, he and his fiancee, Minna Varis, decided to foster a three-month-old rescue dog that was found wandering around a trailer park near Nashville with her sister.

The plan was just to keep her temporarily while a forever home was found, but they failed miserably. They named her Nala and adopted her, and now Saros has to go out and get another tattoo. Saros doesn't even know what breed Nala is – he reckons she's a mix of a Golden and Labrador Retriever – but he knows she's adorable. "We fostered her for a couple of weeks, but our dog loved having her around, and we loved her, too," Saros said. "It was just a good mix, so we ended up keeping her. We always wanted another one, so we kind of had it in mind that she might stay with us."

Saros and Varis plan to marry next summer and just bought a bigger house in Nashville to accommodate the two dogs and what they hope will be a young family. Ask any NHL player who has ever been traded and he'll tell you that kind of planning is often a recipe for being shipped out and having to re-establish yourself with a new team in a new city, especially when you don't have a no-move clause. But that's not a concern for Saros, who is under contract to the Predators for three more seasons at what is turning out to be an extremely team-friendly $5-million annual cap hit. That $5-million figure ties him with six of his contemporaries for 14th-highest among NHL stoppers. So GM David Poile and coach John Hynes can hit the rack every night knowing they won't awake in a cold sweat because of their goaltending. That's nothing new in Nashville, where Saros' predecessor, Pekka Rinne, tended twine for so many years.

But that's a luxury in the NHL, even in an industry where supply often exceeds demand. The problem is that, in recent years, the supply chain has been more than a little unpredictable, which has left some teams scrambling on an annual basis to find an asset to serve their needs. No such problem for the Predators. The organization thought so highly of Rinne that, in February, they made him the first player in franchise history to have his number retired. During his speech that night, Rinne said, "I have no doubt that (the current Predators) have what it takes to go all the way. And I have no doubt, not since Day 1, that as far as goaltending is concerned, I've left the net in the most skilled and capable

BIG DOG

Saros, seen here with Kesa, proved his worth in Nashville in his first NHL season without Rinne around.

NASHVILLE PREDATORS

hands there are.” Later that night, Saros stopped 27 of the 28 shots directed at him by the Dallas Stars, plus four more in the shootout, to give the Predators a 2-1 victory. Even though the transition from Rinne to Saros had been a couple of seasons in the making, that game represented a statement from Saros that Rinne could ride off into the sunset and the Predators’ crease would be just fine without him.

“When you look at his quality of play, his first season without Pekka, it really became his team,” said Hynes of Saros. “He became the guy that guys turned to and looked to. He had more of a voice in the room. I think it was a great season for him, with the Nashville Predators becoming Juuse Saros’ team in the transition from Pekka, and that was a big part of it. He’s really transitioned from that role, behind a guy whose jersey is retired in the arena, to it becoming his team and his organization – his city.”

It was kind of a strange season for the Predators in 2021-22, starting with the fact that nobody really expected them to accomplish much. And when you consider that they squeaked into the last wild-card spot in the Western Conference and were swept by the eventual Stanley Cup champs in seven days, it might be difficult to argue they actually did accomplish much of anything. But aside from Saros finishing third in Vezina Trophy voting, the Predators had more than a few reasons to be encouraged by the strides they made last season.

Captain Roman Josi was all-world, leading defensemen (and all but 10 forwards) in scoring with 96 points, the highest total put up by a defenseman in almost 30 years. Matt Duchene and Filip Forsberg each exploded with 40-goal seasons, and Tanner Jeannot scored and bullied his way into a tremendous rookie year. Things might have been different had Saros not felt a certain pop in his foot late in the season. That pop turned out to be a high-ankle sprain, which derailed his chances of playing in the playoffs.

Things *might* have been different, but probably not. The Avs were such a juggernaut that, even if they’d been facing Saros, they’d have almost certainly made Nashville a first-round casualty. Instead of “eight wasted days” (in the words of Calgary Flames coach Darryl Sutter), perhaps it would have been 10 or 12.

Hynes described Saros as “the backbone of the Predators” last season, and like any backbone, he had to be strong and durable. No goalie in the NHL played more games or more minutes than Saros did last season, and only Connor Hellebuyck of the Winnipeg Jets faced more shots and made more saves. According to Hynes, Nashville’s team doctors maintain the high-ankle sprain had nothing to do with Saros’ 2021-22 workload, and much of it, in fact, had to do with the long stretches of inactivity brought on by the pandemic and the Olympic break. But, regardless, once the league returns to a normal schedule this season, Preds fans can count on all those numbers to decrease. “When you look at his age and his compete level, he’s a guy who can do it,” Hynes said. “But the games will be cut down, for sure. We’ll try to give him some more opportunities this year where you can lessen his workload a little bit. But that backup goaltender has to come in and get some wins for you. He’s got to get some wins.”

And that was a huge part of the dilemma the Predators faced last season. In a conference and a league where every point matters, the Predators did not have the luxury of playing a backup much of the time. David Rittich did not have a good 2021-22 and started just 12 games.

For his part, Saros doesn’t have an issue with the increased workload, but part of the problem – and this is something he learned from Rinne – is his approach to his craft. Like Rinne, Saros is the kind of goalie who will go out for a morning skate and be diving around his net trying to stop every puck. “We’d have to say, ‘Juice, you can’t play every shot in practice to the end,’ ” Hynes said. “A rebound, a tip, a second one and he’s diving all over the place. It’s like, ‘It’s a morning skate. Get ready for the game.’ ”

Unless he’s forced to do so, Saros rarely forgoes optional practices or skates, and his work ethic will not allow him to give anything but total effort. It’s admirable. In fact, it’s the kind of quality NHL teams look for in their players all the time, but it can also take a toll on a body, even in someone as young and strong as Saros.

And at 5-foot-11 and 180 pounds, Saros isn’t a hulking figure. “I was just really excited about it, and I tried to approach it more like it was kind of what I had been working my whole

LEFT+BOTTOM: NICK TURCHIARO-USA TODAY SPORTS

> “It was a great season for him, with the Predators becoming Juuse Saros’ team in the transition from Pekka Rinne
>
> **– NASHVILLE COACH JOHN HYNES**

life for, so I just wanted to enjoy every day and not take it for granted,” said Saros of last season. “That was my mindset going in, just trying to make the most out of it. It felt natural to me because when I played in Finland, I played a lot, and I always enjoyed that. And it’s obviously a different schedule than the Finnish League, but it felt natural to me. I was happy with it, and I didn’t feel tired or anything, especially since pretty much at the end of January, every game mattered so much, so I was just mentally excited, and I didn’t feel tired. It was a little bit different for sure.”

It was a little bit different, and Saros felt it every time he looked up at the Bridgestone Arena rafters to see Rinne’s No. 35 banner hanging there. The Finnish natives played five seasons together, with the last three serving as a transition period where Saros took on more responsibility, both in the regular season and the playoffs. Saros’ play in 2021-22 proved beyond any doubt he could handle a heavy workload and the pressure that accompanies being a No. 1 goalie in the NHL. In fact, he showed he could thrive in that role. Much of that was learned from his predecessor. Rinne is 12 years Saros’ senior, which meant that Saros, when he got to Nashville, was sharing the crease duties with a player he grew up idolizing. He learned his lessons well – from taking a competitive mindset into practice to how treat rink attendants.

And that’s part of what made the transition between Rinne and Saros so seamless. They had split the games pretty much equally during the regular season in Rinne’s last three years, and they’re so alike on and off the ice that there were no real surprises when it came to Saros. It’s difficult to give a guy Vezina Trophy love when he’s only playing half the games, but when he plays at the level Saros did last season and is occupying the crease as much as Saros was, people take more notice. So it could only be a matter of time before Saros duplicates Rinne’s accomplishments and wins a Vezina of his own.

Aside from the Vezina win in 2017-18, Rinne was a finalist for the award three times, showing the kind of consistency the Predators are confident Saros will bring over the coming seasons. “They’re both low maintenance in that they respect the decisions, they respect coaches and they’re very coachable,” Hynes said. “No excuses. There never was with Pekka. If they play well, it’s a deflection to the team. If they don’t play well or the team loses, it’s what they could have done better. They’re very similar. Understated. Neither one of them was a big vocal guy in the room, but when they did talk, it held a lot of weight.”

In the meantime, Saros will continue to stop pucks and win games for the Predators, and he’ll continue to be an advocate for his four-legged friends. This season, fans who join the Preds Pet Club will get a photo of Saros and both his dogs, along with that awesome Light Up Poop Bag Holder. And who knows, perhaps by that time he’ll have tattoos of his dogs on both of his forearms. Saros figures it’s the least he can do. “I think so,” he said when asked whether he intends to get Nala’s image inked on his body. “I have to be fair to both my dogs.” H

KEEPING BUSY
The Predators hope to manage Saros’ workload after a 2021-22 season in which he led NHL goalies in games played.

CHRISTOPHER HANEWINCKEL-USA TODAY SPORTS

SHOOTING FOR MORE

Kyle Connor flirted with 50 goals last year in his finest season to date. Now, after adding a few more tweaks and tricks to his game, the Jets' gunner is taking aim at another career-best campaign

BY JARED CLINTON

THE EXPERIENCE of this off-season was a new one for Kyle Connor. Not necessarily in terms of the recreation time. No, the fishing, the golfing, the time away from the rink to rest and relax with family back in Michigan, all of that is standard summer fare for the Winnipeg Jets star sniper and 2022 Lady Byng Trophy winner. What was new was the amount of time Connor had to spend doing those things, what with no hockey to play after the final game of the regular season.

"Since turning pro, we've made the playoffs every single year I've been there, whether it was a first-round exit against St. Louis a couple years ago or making it to the conference final against Vegas," Connor said. "This was foreign territory, that's for sure."

But for all the ills that cost the Jets a chance at the post-season last year, no one is hanging any of 2021-22's misgivings on Connor. While the likes of Blake Wheeler, Mark Scheifele and Connor Hellebuyck had what can best be described as productive-but-at-times-frustrating seasons, Connor's star shone so brightly it was sometimes just about the only light throughout a blustery Winnipeg winter. Career-best marks of 47 goals and 93 points were fifth (tied) and 13th in the NHL. For a player whose previous zenith was cracking the 35-goal and 70-point plateaus, this was Connor trading in the standout top-six-scorer label and punching his ticket into the echelon of the elite.

WORKING ON IT
Connor's skating and shot are two of his biggest strengths, but practice makes perfect for the Jets sniper.

JAMES CAREY LAUDER-USA TODAY SPORTS

"That's been one of my best attributes, to be able to grow as a player every single year a little bit," said Connor. "Another year maturer, another year knowing the league, knowing certain tendencies, how to take advantage of certain plays in the offensive zone and those reads becoming instinct. What I've been able to do and build on each year is a testament to the type of training that I do here in the off-season in Michigan."

So what, then, does that training include in a summer where Connor was preparing to best across-the-board highs? Strength was a target, as was his skating, which borders on absurd given it's already one of his greatest attributes. But one of the focuses for Connor – who would've reached the 50-goal plateau had he had friendlier bounces on three of the 12 posts he hit last season – was continuing to fine-tune an already lethal shot. That meant shooting off-balance, picking corners from tight angles, quickening his release or shifting the puck from backhand to forehand – or vice versa – to fool unsuspecting goalies.

It's not just this summer that Connor put in the hours to squeeze every ounce out of his ability. It's an every-off-season effort, and never was that work more apparent than last year, when he was one of the most prolific shooters in the game. Connor pelted the league's netminding collective with 317 shots, an increase of 78 shots over his previous career high. His off-season efforts translated into game situations, too. Last season, Connor was among a group of just 14 players credited with letting loose at least 20 wrist shots, 20 snap shots, 20 slapshots, 20 backhanders and tipping 10 pucks on goal. It's fitting, then, that he was alongside Auston Matthews as one of only two players credited with five goals in the four big categories: wristers, snappers, slappers and backhanders.

Connor sees having and honing those elements of his offensive game as imperative to staking his claim as one of the league's most deadly scorers. Speaking of Alex Ovechkin, Connor was quick to point out that the Washington superstar isn't a one-trick pony; beyond the twine-bulging one-timers, Ovechkin uses his speed and body to drive to the net like few others. Connor was also quick to point out that coaches around the league are beginning to game plan against him, and that those defending him are paid, and paid well, to shut him down. "You have to be versatile and be scoring from all over the place to be lethal," Connor said. "It's something I work on a lot, not being able to score just from a wrist shot or the one-timer spot on the half wall. It's getting to the net, getting to pucks, being in the right spot. It's a lot of offensive awareness and where to go and read the play."

Lest Connor be tagged as a one-way threat, understand changing that perception rests large on his mind. While it's true his underlying numbers won't be confused with those of a Selke Trophy contender, and rare are the instances in which he'll be used in an out-and-out shutdown role, Connor is no stranger to late-game situations. And he was entrusted with heavy penalty-killing minutes last season. To wit, his 110 minutes on the PK were only 26 fewer than he played shorthanded in the three prior campaigns combined.

Rounding out that part of his game, Connor hopes, can be part of what propels Winnipeg back in the right direction, particularly after what was an unfortunately turbulent season that was thrown into a state of temporary disarray with the departure of longtime coach Paul Maurice and installment of interim and now-departed bench boss Dave Lowry. Despite the troubles, however, it is Connor's belief the chance to start anew will be just what the Jets need to ensure next summer isn't quite as long.

"Losing Maurice halfway through impacts different players, and overall, as a team and individually, you don't realize how much one guy, your coach, actually has an effect on your team," Connor said. "But that being said, I think we've got a lot of good pieces. It was unfortunate we missed the playoffs, but I don't think there needs to be anything crazy in this off-season. I believe in the organization, in (GM Kevin Cheveldayoff) and the guys in there."

And given what the Jets – and everyone around the NHL – has seen out of Connor, trust that there is no lack in belief in him, either.

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NHL TEAM REPORTS

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SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

Each year recently we've said the NHL has reached peak parity, but this time we mean it. Picking a Stanley Cup champ is a roll of the dice, but in 2023, we think the Canes will grab their second Cup

BY JARED CLINTON

THERE'S NOTHING wrong with a bit of pragmatism. Truthfully, one could argue there's a lack of it in professional sports, though such is the nature of the beast in the business of wins and losses. So, when Hurricanes coach Rod Brind'Amour stepped to the podium in June at an end-of-season press conference and was able to see the sunny side of Carolina's second straight second-round playoff exit, it was commendable. And it was hard to argue with him. Who is going to take issue with consecutive division-leading seasons and coming within one win of a conference final? After all, perfection is the enemy of good, and the 2021-22 Hurricanes' 116-point performance was pretty darn good.

Aphoristic nonsense aside, though, there comes a time when even pragmatism has to be cast aside in favor of concrete expectations, and if ever there was a time for this Hurricanes group to have a Cup-or-bust mindset, this is it. For the past two campaigns, Carolina has been the cream of the Metropolitan crop, led by the exceptionally talented core of forwards Sebastian Aho, Teuvo Teravainen and Andrei Svechnikov and blueliners Jaccob Slavin and Brett Pesce. Only the Florida Panthers and defending Stanley Cup champion Colorado Avalanche have accumulated more points than Carolina the past two seasons, no team has been more defensively sound, and the Hurricanes are a top-10 offensive unit across that span, too. Those are all the hallmarks of a champion in the making.

But championships are won in the margins, and in Carolina, as with any club, questions abound. Will Svechnikov go from all-star to elite? Does Seth Jarvis' rookie success portend a sophomore surge? Is Jesperi Kotkaniemi ready for a bigger role? And can Frederik Andersen replicate last season's success and stay healthy? It's our position each of those will be answered in the affirmative. Moreover, we're projecting the additions of Brent Burns and Max Pacioretty – when he returns following Achilles surgery – will give the Hurricanes the experience and additional firepower needed to capture the second Stanley Cup in franchise history.

ROD BRIND'AMOUR

JAMES CAREY LAUDER-USA TODAY SPORTS

Coincidentally, however, we're predicting the team standing in the Hurricanes' way will be the Edmonton Oilers, the very franchise Carolina downed en route to its first league crown. The Oilers' run to the conference final – where, admittedly, they were bowled over by the juggernaut Avalanche – was evidence of an Edmonton organization that has finally found the formula for success or, better put, has finally managed to land on the right ingredients with which to surround Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl. Speaking of whom, the Oilers' all-world duo has now faced facsimiles of the post-season growing pains modern dynamic duos such as Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin and Chicago's Patrick Kane and Jonathan Toews experienced on the path to their Stanley Cup successes. If you need to learn to lose to learn how to win, McDavid and Draisaitl have done enough of the former, so it can safely be said they're prepared for the latter.

What sets this Oilers bunch above last season's iteration is the addition of goalie Jack Campbell. Greybeard Mike Smith was saved at times in the playoffs only by the Oilers' offense and the apparent transitivity of a condition known as sieve-itis. The malady turned otherwise-talented opposing keepers into bumbling blunderers when staring down Smith. If Campbell's mid-career resurgence continues and he builds on what he began in Toronto, Edmonton will have patched its most glaring weakness and tick an all-important box on the Cup-contention checklist.

Unlike past seasons when certain clubs had an air of preordination, the NHL has reached such a peak of cap-era parity that a bounce here or a deflection there brings with it significant potential to alter the course of not just the playoffs but regular-season standings. Consider the Atlantic Division, headlined by a three-horse race between the still-mighty Tampa Bay Lightning, title-starved Toronto Maple Leafs and defending Presidents' Trophy-winning Florida Panthers. That's a super-solid top of the order, yet it can be thrown into disarray by an ever-competitive Boston Bruins bunch and a plucky Ottawa Senators outfit fresh off of a stellar summer that included adding 40-goal scorer Alex DeBrincat and veteran leader Claude Giroux.

Or how about the Metro, where Carolina will have to ward off the Rangers and sublime stopper Igor Shesterkin? That's not to mention Columbus, whose stunning Johnny Gaudreau signing has upgraded its offense by an order of magnitude. Are we stretching by picking them to make the playoffs? Perhaps. But a gut feeling has us thinking they'll make a big jump.

Speaking of Gaudreau, after losing two 100-point players in 'Johnny Hockey' and now-Panther Matthew Tkachuk, the Calgary Flames have fared far better this summer than anyone could have reasonably expected. Landing Jonathan Huberdeau, fresh off a 115-point season of his own, and top-pairing defender MacKenzie Weegar closes the gap, and it is a fool's errand to overlook any Darryl Sutter-coached team.

It would be equally foolish to count out the Golden Knights, who've made no secret of their willingness to do whatever it takes to remain in contention. A full season of Jack Eichel could produce spectacular results. And bringing in a new No. 1 to replace the injured Robin Lehner could turn out to be a good thing. Of course, the list of the West's best is sure to feature the Avalanche, who still boast Cale Makar and Devon Toews, the NHL's best 'D' pairing, and an offense-leading trio of Nathan MacKinnon, Mikko Rantanen and Gabriel Landeskog. That's not to say the Central is Colorado's in a walk. The division crown is always fought over tooth and nail, with St. Louis, Minnesota, Nashville, Dallas and even Winnipeg in the mix.

Frankly, however, any prognostications need an astronomical asterisk. Nearly two decades after the institution of the salary cap, which was implemented in part to level the playing field between the haves and have-nots, the gap between top teams and those in the mushy middle are infinitesimal. And perhaps in the spirit of that age-old axiom about things staying the same the more they change, that we foresee a rematch of the first cap-era Cup final makes plenty of sense as we inch closer to 20 years of competition-balancing spending restraints.

The Hockey News 2022-23 PREDICTIONS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

1. **Tampa Bay Lightning** PG. 146
2. **Toronto Maple Leafs** PG. 150
3. **Florida Panthers** PG. 90
4. **Ottawa Senators** PG. 122
5. **Boston Bruins** PG. 50
6. **Buffalo Sabres** PG. 54
7. **Detroit Red Wings** PG. 82
8. **Montreal Canadiens** PG. 102

Metropolitan Division

1. **Carolina Hurricanes** PG. 62
2. **New York Rangers** PG. 118
3. **Pittsburgh Penguins** PG. 130
4. **Columbus Blue Jackets*** PG. 74
5. **New York Islanders*** PG. 114
6. **Washington Capitals** PG. 162
7. **New Jersey Devils** PG. 110
8. **Philadelphia Flyers** PG. 126

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

1. **Colorado Avalanche** PG. 70
2. **St. Louis Blues** PG. 134
3. **Minnesota Wild** PG. 98
4. **Nashville Predators*** PG. 106
5. **Dallas Stars** PG. 78
6. **Winnipeg Jets** PG. 166
7. **Chicago Blackhawks** PG. 66
8. **Arizona Coyotes** PG. 46

Pacific Division

1. **Edmonton Oilers** PG. 86
2. **Calgary Flames** PG. 58
3. **Vegas Golden Knights** PG. 158
4. **Los Angeles Kings*** PG. 94
5. **Vancouver Canucks** PG. 154
6. **Anaheim Ducks** PG. 42
7. **Seattle Kraken** PG. 142
8. **San Jose Sharks** PG. 138

STANLEY CUP PICK

Carolina
defeats
Edmonton

**playoff wild card*

ANAHEIM DUCKS

THN PREDICTION | 6TH IN PACIFIC

TREVOR ZEGRAS

PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD	31-37-14 (.463)
OVERTIME	5-9
SHOOTOUT	4-5
OVERALL	23rd
OFFENSE	2.78 GPG (24th)
DEFENSE	3.24 GAA (23rd)
POWER PLAY	21.9% (14th)
PENALTY KILL	80.8% (10th)
CORSI FOR/60	52.79 (23rd)
CORSI AGAINST/60	57.64 (23rd)
ICE TIME LEAD (F)	R. Getzlaf (18:57)
ICE TIME LEAD (D)	C. Fowler (24:25)

FAST FACTS

COACH	Dallas Eakins
GM	Pat Verbeek
ARENA	Honda Center
CAPACITY	17,174
AHL AFFILIATE	San Diego Gulls
ECHL AFFILIATE	Tulsa Oilers
PLAYOFF RECORD	0-4 (since 2018)

BY ELLIOTT TEAFORD

THE LONGEST-SERVING captain in franchise history retired. The longtime GM resigned. The new GM cut loose four key veterans at the trade deadline. The team missed the playoffs for the fourth consecutive time, the longest post-season drought in franchise history.

The past 12 months have been eventful for the Ducks, but there are signs that better days are ahead in the post-Ryan Getzlaf era, with Pat Verbeek giving the roster its first makeover after Verbeek replaced Bob Murray as GM. Troy Terry, Trevor Zegras and Jamie Drysdale give the lineup a fresh-faced look for 2022-23, as does the addition of prized UFA D-man John Klingberg. Plus, rookie Mason McTavish figures to make the leap from the OHL to the NHL. The teardown appears complete. Now comes the building process, and Verbeek looks to have some – but not yet all – of the tools to get it done.

>OFFENSE

Terry had a breakout season, leading the Ducks with 37 goals and 67 points. Zegras, the Calder Trophy runner-up, was second with 23 goals and 61 points. But that's about it for the good news from the Ducks' offense, as no one else hit the 20-goal plateau.

Verbeek added to Anaheim's scoring depth by signing Ryan Strome and Frank Vatrano as free agents. Strome notched a career-high 21 goals last season with the New

York Rangers, and Vatrano had 18 goals while splitting time between Florida and the Rangers. McTavish could earn a significant role after a stellar major-junior season that included a Memorial Cup appearance.

>DEFENSE

The blueline was thinned out after Verbeek dealt Hampus Lindholm to Boston and Josh Manson to eventual Stanley Cup champion Colorado last season. The arrival of Klingberg – on a one-year, $7-million deal – provides a short-term respite. He gives the Ducks another playmaker on the back end to go with Cam Fowler, who led the 'D' last year with nine goals and a career-high 42 points. Klingberg and Fowler could co-quarterback an improved power play or work on separate man-advantage units.

Drysdale was given a big role as a teenager, and the results were mixed. He had four goals and 32 points in 81 games, but also sported a team-worst minus-26 rating.

JOHN GIBSON &
JAMIE DRYSDALE

BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS

>GOALTENDING

The rumor mill was spinning at top speed with speculation the Ducks would trade John Gibson, with the conventional wisdom suggesting he was unhappy with the extended rebuilding project and the constant losing. He shut down the chatter by saying he didn't want to be dealt. Gibson and backup Anthony Stolarz are the strongest, steadiest part of the Ducks' roster. High-end goalies like Gibson don't come around very often.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

Credit for the Ducks' power-play improvement last season goes to assistant coaches Newell Brown and Geoff Ward (who has since left the Ducks for personal reasons). After setting a modern-day record for futility with a paltry 8.9-percent success rate in 2020-21, the Ducks rebounded to click at a credible 21.9 percent in 2021-22, which ranked 14th in the NHL. The power play is bound to improve further with the addition of Klingberg. The penalty kill improved as well, finishing at 80.8 percent, ranking 10th in the league. As ever, Gibson was the Ducks' best and most consistent penalty-killer.

>INTANGIBLES

Getzlaf served as the Ducks captain since taking over from Scott Niedermayer in 2010. It's difficult to imagine how Anaheim might fill the role after Getzlaf skated into retirement at the end of last season. Unlike 12 years ago, when either Getzlaf or Saku Koivu could have assumed the job, there doesn't seem to be a natural replacement. The Ducks don't lack leaders, though. Fowler and Adam Henrique are among the possible candidates.

>ROOKIES

The focus will be on McTavish, who played nine NHL games last season and didn't look out of place before being sent to AHL San Diego for three more games prior to going back to the OHL. He looked like a ready-made NHLer during the OHL playoffs and Memorial Cup.

CUP ODDS

50/1

>X-FACTOR

By almost any measure, Zegras had an excellent rookie year, but the Ducks clearly weren't satisfied. They want more consistency and a better all-around game from him. The lacrosse-style goals get the attention, but faceoff wins and strong backchecking win games, too. Can he raise his overall level this season?

>THE BRASS

Verbeek has made some bold personnel decisions in his short time as GM. He picked up the fourth-year option on coach Dallas Eakins' contract near the end of last season. How patient will Verbeek be with Eakins if things go sour early? That's a big question heading into the 2022-23 campaign. H

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Adam Henrique	**1.** Trevor Zegras	**1.** Troy Terry
2. Max Comtois	**2.** Ryan Strome	**2.** Frank Vatrano
3. Mason McTavish	**3.** Isac Lundestrom	**3.** Jakob Silfverberg
4. Max Jones	**4.** Derek Grant	**4.** Sam Carrick
5. Brayden Tracey	**5.** Benoit-Olivier Groulx	**5.** Jacob Perreault

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. John Klingberg	**6.** Josh Mahura	**1.** John Gibson
2. Cam Fowler	**7.** Simon Benoit	**2.** Anthony Stolarz
3. Jamie Drysdale	**8.** Drew Helleson	**3.** Lukas Dostal
4. Urho Vaakanainen	**9.** John Moore	✚ INJURED
5. Kevin Shattenkirk	**10.** Colton White	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Ryan Getzlaf, C; Sonny Milano, LW; Sam Steel, C; Vinni Lettieri, LW; Gerry Mayhew, C; Andrej Sustr, D; Zach Aston-Reese, RW; Dominik Simon, C; Jacob Larsson, D

MASON MCTAVISH

FUTURE WATCH

THE DUCKS ALREADY HAVE some excellent youngsters to build around in Jamie Drysdale and Trevor Zegras, and the team continues to accrue help. Mason McTavish is ready to push for a spot, while Drysdale got some future blueline back-up in the 2022 draft with the likes of Pavel Mintyukov and QMJHL Gatineau teammates Noah Warren and Tristan Luneau. With Olen Zellweger, Drew Helleson, Jackson LaCombe and others, that back end has a ton of potential.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Mason McTavish, C

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Hamilton (OHL)
Power forward had outstanding OHL playoff. Swiss-born Canadian plays like a wrecking ball.
Acquired 3rd overall, 2021 **NHL** '22-23

2. Pavel Mintyukov, D

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Saginaw (OHL)
Fleet-footed rearguard is an excellent distributor. Plenty to prove after Russian WJC snub.
Acquired 10th overall, 2022 **NHL** '24-25

3. Nathan Gaucher, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Quebec (QMJHL)
Big, strong and smart, he's an NHL coach's dream. Virtual lock for future middle-six duty.
Acquired 22nd overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

4. Lukas Dostal, G

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** San Diego (AHL)
Technically sound netminder excelled with heavier AHL workload. It's all about seasoning.
Acquired 85th overall, 2018 **NHL** '24-25

5. Olen Zellweger, D

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Everett (WHL)
Lacks size but fluid skating allows for great positional play. Thinks the game very well.
Acquired 34th overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

6. Jacob Perreault, RW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** San Diego (AHL)
Offensive instincts shone in second AHL campaign. Not the two-way player dad, Yanic, was.
Acquired 27th overall, 2020 **NHL** '22-23

7. Drew Helleson, D

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Boston College (HE)
All-situations defender makes great first pass. Got taste of pro game and Olympics.
Acquired From Col, March 2022 **NHL** '22-23

8. Urho Vaakanainen, D

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Providence (AHL)
Plays low-risk, defense-first style. Came over with draft picks in Hampus Lindholm deal.
Acquired From Bos, March 2022 **NHL** '22-23

9. Noah Warren, D

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Gatineau (QMJHL)
Bulky, right-shot defender is a deft defender but lacks offense. Could be more physical.
Acquired 42nd overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

10. Calle Clang, G

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Rogle (Swe.)
Active and excellent reflexes in the crease. Came over in the Rickard Rakell trade.
Acquired From Pit, March 2022 **NHL** '25-26

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Gage Alexander	20	Winnipeg (WHL)	29	18	7	4	2.40	.911
Vyacheslav Buteyets	20	Chelyabinsk (Rus2)	20	6	2	2	2.49	.918
Calle Clang	20	Rogle (Swe)	17	10	5	0	2.28	.915
Lukas Dostal	22	San Diego (AHL)	40	18	14	16	2.60	.916
Olle Eriksson Ek	23	San Diego (AHL)	26	7	15	3	3.44	.880
John Gibson	29	Anaheim	56	18	26	11	3.19	.904
Anthony Stolarz	28	Anaheim	28	12	8	3	2.67	.917

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Axel Andersson	22	San Diego (AHL)	35	4	6	10	15
Simon Benoit	24	Anaheim	53	1	4	5	22
Jamie Drysdale	20	Anaheim	81	4	28	32	16
Cam Fowler	30	Anaheim	76	9	33	42	14
William Francis	21	Minn.-Duluth (NCHC)	5	0	2	2	0
Drew Helleson	21	Boston Col. (HE)	32	4	21	25	4
Tyson Hinds	19	Rim/Sher (QMJHL)	61	12	23	35	20
Olli Juolevi	24	Det/Fla	13	0	1	1	4
Jackson LaCombe	21	Minnesota (NCHC)	39	3	27	30	12
Tristan Luneau	18	Gatineau (QMJHL)	63	12	31	43	20
John Klingberg	30	Dallas	74	6	41	47	34
Josh Mahura	24	Anaheim	38	3	4	7	12
Pavel Mintyukov	18	Saginaw (OHL)	67	17	45	62	28
Ian Moore	20	Harvard (ECAC)	35	2	13	15	10
John Moore	31	Boston	7	0	1	1	4
Thimo Nickl	20	AIK (Swe)	38	2	8	10	22
Kevin Shattenkirk	33	Anaheim	80	8	27	35	36
Austin Strand	25	Ontario (AHL)	32	3	4	7	30
Henry Thrun	21	Harvard (ECAC)	35	7	25	32	10
Urho Vaakanainen	23	Bos/Ana	29	0	6	6	10
Noah Warren	18	Gatineau (QMJHL)	62	5	19	24	52
Colton White	25	Utica (AHL)	27	0	4	4	8
Olen Zellweger	19	Everett (WHL)	55	14	64	78	45

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Ethan Bowen	20	Chilliwack (BCHL)	39	18	25	43	36
Michael Callow	18	St. Sebastian's (High-MA)	25	26	15	41	N/A
Sam Carrick	30	Anaheim	64	11	8	19	85
Sam Colangelo	20	Northeastern (HE)	29	12	15	27	18
Max Comtois	23	Anaheim	52	6	10	16	46
Chase De Leo	27	Utica (AHL)	55	21	35	56	18
Artyom Galimov	23	Kazan (KHL)	47	7	15	22	18
Nathan Gaucher	18	Quebec (QMJHL)	66	31	26	57	74
Glenn Gawdin	25	Stockton (AHL)	62	15	35	50	75
Maxim Golod	22	Tulsa (ECHL)	32	5	17	22	34
Derek Grant	32	Anaheim	71	15	14	29	27
Benoit-Olivier Groulx	22	San Diego (AHL)	40	11	11	22	39
Adam Henrique	32	Anaheim	58	19	23	42	14
Drew Hunter	23	San Diego (AHL)	64	17	21	38	134
Connor Hvidston	18	Swift Current (WHL)	58	13	19	32	14
Trevor Janicke	21	Notre Dame (Big10)	40	15	9	24	14
Max Jones	24	Anaheim	2	0	0	0	15
Bryce Kindopp	23	San Diego (AHL)	67	12	17	29	35
Ben King	20	Red Deer (WHL)	68	52	53	105	57
Justin Kirkland	26	Stockton (AHL)	66	25	23	48	75
Kyle Kukkonen	19	Madison (USHL)	56	22	31	53	40
Josh Lopina	21	UMass (HE)	27	12	15	27	21
Isac Lundestrom	22	Anaheim	80	16	13	29	8
Blake McLaughlin	22	Minnesota (NCHC)	39	13	20	33	35
Mason McTavish	19	Pbo/Ham (OHL)	29	20	27	47	31
Danny O'Regan	28	San Diego (AHL)	53	13	21	34	20
Sasha Pastujov	20	Guelph (OHL)	65	34	42	76	33
Jack Perbix	22	Minnesota (NCHC)	38	5	7	12	18
Jacob Perreault	20	San Diego (AHL)	55	14	23	37	62
Pavol Regenda	22	Michalovce (Svk)	43	15	24	39	55
Jakob Silfverberg	31	Anaheim	53	5	16	21	30
Ryan Strome	29	NY Rangers	74	21	33	54	69
Albin Sundsvik	21	Skelleftea (Swe)	47	5	4	9	16
Troy Terry	25	Anaheim	75	37	30	67	26
Brayden Tracey	21	San Diego (AHL)	55	11	20	31	40
Sean Tschigerl	19	Calgary (WHL)	65	23	35	58	35
Frank Vatrano	28	Fla/NYR	81	18	14	32	22
Trevor Zegras	21	Anaheim	75	23	38	61	50

BRANDON TAYLOR/OHL IMAGES

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																			2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**	**P/GP**	**EVG**	**EVP**	**PPG**	**PPP**	**SHG**	**SHP**	**OTG**	**GWG**	**S**	**S%**	**TOI/GP**	**FOW%**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**
Troy Terry	75	37	30	67	-11	26	0.89	29	52	8	15	0	0	2	7	192	19.3	18:14	11.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Trevor Zegras	75	23	38	61	-21	50	0.81	14	44	9	17	0	0	1	5	181	12.7	17:54	39.9	--	--	--	--	--	--
Adam Henrique	58	19	23	42	-2	14	0.72	13	31	6	11	0	0	0	0	141	13.5	17:25	55.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cam Fowler	76	9	33	42	-9	14	0.55	3	24	6	18	0	0	0	1	124	7.3	24:25	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ryan Getzlaf	56	3	34	37	-14	29	0.66	1	26	2	11	0	0	0	1	104	2.9	18:57	53.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kevin Shattenkirk	82	8	27	35	-9	36	0.43	7	21	1	14	0	0	0	1	163	4.9	21:25	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sonny Milano	66	14	20	34	-9	10	0.52	9	24	5	10	0	0	0	3	94	14.9	15:17	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jamie Drysdale	81	4	28	32	-26	16	0.40	4	20	0	12	0	0	1	1	137	2.9	19:53	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Isac Lundestrom	80	16	13	29	-3	8	0.36	12	25	0	0	4	4	0	3	83	19.3	15:29	44.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Derek Grant	71	15	14	29	-16	27	0.41	12	25	2	2	1	2	0	1	117	12.8	14:19	48.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rickard Rakell	51	16	12	28	-7	8	0.55	11	19	5	9	0	0	1	1	136	11.8	18:21	44.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hampus Lindholm	61	5	17	22	0	42	0.36	4	17	1	4	0	1	0	1	119	4.2	22:32	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jakob Silfverberg	53	5	16	21	-3	30	0.40	4	16	1	5	0	0	0	0	120	4.2	17:02	33.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sam Steel	68	6	14	20	-17	16	0.29	6	17	0	3	0	0	0	1	66	9.1	12:19	49.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sam Carrick	64	11	8	19	-12	85	0.30	11	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	80	13.8	11:28	49.4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Max Comtois	52	6	10	16	-17	46	0.31	6	14	0	2	0	0	0	0	72	8.3	14:08	47.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nicolas Deslauriers	61	5	5	10	-9	90	0.16	4	9	0	0	1	1	0	0	72	6.9	11:38	25.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Vinni Lettieri	31	5	5	10	-8	6	0.32	3	5	2	5	0	0	0	0	50	10.0	12:31	52.2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Josh Manson	45	4	5	9	0	53	0.20	4	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	61	6.6	19:45	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Josh Mahura	38	3	4	7	-14	12	0.18	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	8.3	14:04	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Gerry Mayhew	15	5	1	6	-1	8	0.40	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	22.7	14:52	20.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Buddy Robinson	32	1	5	6	2	19	0.19	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	2.6	9:15	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Simon Benoit	53	1	4	5	-5	22	0.09	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	2.2	14:06	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Andrej Sustr	23	0	5	5	-3	10	0.22	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0.0	17:27	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Zach Aston-Reese	17	3	1	4	1	6	0.24	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	11.5	13:25	33.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dominik Simon	17	0	4	4	0	6	0.24	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0.0	12:22	66.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mason McTavish	9	2	1	3	3	2	0.33	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	12	16.7	13:05	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Benoit-Olivier Groulx	18	1	2	3	0	2	0.17	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	5.9	11:00	45.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Greg Pateryn	10	1	1	2	0	10	0.20	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	6.3	14:07	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Urho Vaakanainen	14	0	2	2	-5	6	0.14	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	12	0.0	19:21	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Danny O'Regan	5	0	1	1	-1	0	0.20	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	10:03	39.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jacob Larsson	6	0	1	1	-3	2	0.17	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.0	15:16	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brendan Guhle	6	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.0	14:40	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Max Jones	2	0	0	0	-1	15	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	9:54	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hunter Drew	2	0	0	0	0	5	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	9:52	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brayden Tracey	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	9:21	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Bryce Kindopp	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	6:06	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jacob Perreault	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	11:05	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**SA**	**SVS**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**
John Gibson	56	56	18	26	11	1,789	1,617	172	.904	3.19	3235:35	12	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Anthony Stolarz	28	23	12	8	3	809	742	67	.917	2.67	1506:25	2	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lukas Dostal	4	3	1	2	0	108	98	10	.907	2.98	201:27	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Thomas Hodges	1	0	0	1	0	3	2	1	.667	3.11	19:16	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Wed, Oct 12	vs Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 15	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Mon, Oct 17	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 18	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 20	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 23	@ Detroit	5:00 PM
Wed, Oct 26	vs Tampa Bay	10:00 PM
Fri, Oct 28	@ Vegas	6:00 PM
Sun, Oct 30	vs Toronto	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Thu, Nov 3	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 5	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sun, Nov 6	vs Florida	9:00 PM
Wed, Nov 9	vs Minnesota	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 12	vs Chicago	10:00 PM
Tue, Nov 15	vs Detroit	10:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Mon, Nov 21	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 23	vs NY Rangers	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 25	vs Ottawa	3:00 PM
Sun, Nov 27	vs Seattle	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 29	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 1	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Sat, Dec 3	@ Minnesota	2:00 PM
Sun, Dec 4	@ Winnipeg	3:00 PM
Tue, Dec 6	vs Carolina	10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 9	vs San Jose	10:00 PM
Mon, Dec 12	@ Ottawa	7:30 PM
Tue, Dec 13	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 15	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 17	@ Edmonton	4:00 PM
Tue, Dec 20	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Wed, Dec 21	vs Minnesota	10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 23	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Wed, Dec 28	vs Vegas	10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 30	vs Nashville	5:00 PM
Mon, Jan 2	vs Philadelphia	10:00 PM
Wed, Jan 4	vs Dallas	10:00 PM
Fri, Jan 6	vs San Jose	10:00 PM
Sun, Jan 8	vs Boston	8:30 PM
Wed, Jan 11	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Fri, Jan 13	vs New Jersey	10:00 PM
Mon, Jan 16	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 17	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 19	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	@ Buffalo	12:30 PM
Tue, Jan 24	@ Arizona	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 26	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 28	vs Arizona	10:00 PM
Mon, Feb 6	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Tue, Feb 7	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Fri, Feb 10	vs Pittsburgh	10:00 PM
Sun, Feb 12	@ Vegas	3:00 PM
Wed, Feb 15	vs Buffalo	10:00 PM
Fri, Feb 17	vs Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Mon, Feb 20	@ Florida	1:00 PM
Tue, Feb 21	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 23	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 25	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 27	vs Chicago	10:00 PM
Wed, Mar 1	vs Washington	10:00 PM
Fri, Mar 3	vs Montreal	10:00 PM
Tue, Mar 7	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Wed, Mar 8	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Fri, Mar 10	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sun, Mar 12	vs Nashville	9:30 PM
Wed, Mar 15	vs NY Islanders	10:00 PM
Fri, Mar 17	vs Columbus	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 19	vs Vancouver	8:00 PM
Tue, Mar 21	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 23	vs Winnipeg	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	vs St. Louis	10:30 PM
Mon, Mar 27	vs Colorado	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 30	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 1	@ Edmonton	10:00 PM
Sun, Apr 2	@ Calgary	8:00 PM
Wed, Apr 5	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 8	@ Arizona	5:30 PM
Sun, Apr 9	vs Colorado	8:30 PM
Tue, Apr 11	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	vs Los Angeles	10:00 PM

JOHN GIBSON

DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS

ARIZONA COYOTES

THN PREDICTION | 8TH IN CENTRAL

CLAYTON KELLER

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY PATRICK BROWN

THE COYOTES NO longer call Gila River Arena home, as they'll open the 2022-23 season at Arizona State's new multi-purpose arena. It may take a while to settle into their new digs – considering they play there just four times in the first two months of the season – but that also means the back half of the schedule is heavy on home dates.

Still knee-deep in a rebuild, GM Bill Armstrong has stayed true to form in absorbing contracts in exchange for assets while bringing in plenty of new faces on short-term deals. Much like last season, Arizona has a number of new players on its roster, and though the prospect pipeline has improved drastically over the past few years through the draft, it will still be a little while before fans see the likes of Dylan Guenther, Logan Cooley or Conor Geekie in the NHL.

>OFFENSE

The Coyotes' offense averaged a league-low 2.51 goals per game last season. If they're to improve on that at all, the scoring needs to extend beyond the top line of Nick Schmaltz, Travis Boyd and Clayton Keller. Newcomers Nick Bjugstad and Zack Kassian could bolster the secondary offense, but it remains to be seen if either of them can consistently contribute over a full season.

Keller notched 63 points in 67 games before being sidelined with injury, and aside from Schmaltz (59 points in 63 games), the next highest-scoring returning forward is Boyd, who had a career-best 35 points. Nick Ritchie is going to be a wild card, as he recorded 14 points in 24 games with Arizona after a mid-season trade from Toronto.

>DEFENSE

What a difference a year makes. Jakob Chychrun entered last season as the clear-cut No. 1 defenseman after former captain Oliver Ekman-Larsson was dealt to Vancouver, but

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD
25-50-7 (.348)

OVERTIME
6-3

SHOOTOUT
1-4

OVERALL
31st

OFFENSE
2.51 (32nd)

DEFENSE
3.77 (30th)

POWER PLAY
13.9% (30th)

PENALTY KILL
75.0% (28th)

CORSI FOR/60
47.5 (32nd)

CORSI AGAINST/60
60.45 (30th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
C. Keller (20:08)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
J. Chychrun (23:00)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Andre Tourigny

GM
Bill Armstrong

ARENA
Arizona State
Multi-Purpose Arena

CAPACITY
5,000

AHL AFFILIATE
Tucson Roadrunners

ECHL AFFILIATE
Rapid City Rush

PLAYOFF RECORD
4-5 (since 2018)

with Chychrun experiencing a number of injuries – he played just 47 games – and being involved in never-ending trade rumors, Shayne Gostisbehere would emerge as the club's most reliable blueliner. His 51-point campaign was his best since he posted 65 points with Philadelphia in 2017-18, and he could be a great complement to the right-handed Dysin Mayo, who played 67 games in his rookie NHL season.

Arizona allowed more shots against than any other team last year, but Armstrong hopes the addition of veteran defenders Troy Stecher, Josh Brown and Patrik Nemeth will help shore up the blueline.

SHAYNE GOSTISBEHERE

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

>GOALTENDING

Karel Vejmelka is the starter following a failed experiment with Carter Hutton (he appeared in just three games). 'Veggie' went 13-32-3 in 2021-22, and considering the number (and quality) of shots he faced per game, his .898 save percentage was decent. The biggest question Arizona faces heading into this season is who will back him up: Ivan Prosvetov, who allowed 13 total goals in three games last year, or the newly signed Jon Gillies, who has a 3.31 goals-against average and .893 save percentage in 32 career NHL games?

>SPECIAL TEAMS

The Coyotes' special teams ranked among the worst in the league. Their 13.9-percent efficiency on the power play was better than only Montreal (13.7) and Philadelphia (12.6), and the penalty kill wasn't much better, tied for fourth-worst at 75.0 percent. There aren't many new faces on the roster who will significantly move the needle, but if Chychrun can help drive the man advantage, they could move up a bit. Keller logged just five power-play goals, followed by Schmaltz (four) and Lawson Crouse (three), so Arizona has yet to find its power-play difference-maker. The ice time is there for a youngster to step up.

>INTANGIBLES

The Coyotes might not be a playoff team, but they're no pushover. Armstrong and coach Andre Tourigny have forged a punishing, tough-to-play-against team identity, and the players have unquestionably bought in. Last year's mid-season addition of Ritchie proved that point, and incoming players such as Kassian and Brown further that narrative. It may not be pretty, but opposing teams have had to work hard to win in the desert, even against a rebuilding team.

>ROOKIES

The Coyotes had 11 players make their NHL debut last season, a number that surely won't be matched in 2022-23. That said, new arrivals such as centers Nathan Smith and Jack McBain – each of whom played 10 NHL games last season – fit in well as prospects in their early 20s who are in a good position to rise up and make an impact.

CUP ODDS

120/1

>X-FACTOR

Keller's health remains at the top of the list. If he can pick up where he left off, Arizona should see an offensive uptick. That said, this is a big year for center Barrett Hayton, who needs to take the next step in his development. TheNo. 5 overall pick in the 2018 draft is sound in the faceoff circle, but can he build upon his 10-goal 2021-22 output?

>THE BRASS

Armstrong has made no secret of his plans for the Coyotes, who are in full rebuild mode. The GM continues to acquire draft assets in exchange for taking on bloated contracts, something that's helped bolster the club's pipeline significantly. Arizona holds 18 total combined picks in the first three rounds of the 2023, 2024 and 2025 drafts. H

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Nick Schmaltz	**1.** Travis Boyd	**1.** Clayton Keller
2. Lawson Crouse	**2.** Barrett Hayton	**2.** Zack Kassian
3. Nick Ritchie	**3.** Nick Bjugstad	**3.** Christian Fischer
4. Liam O'Brien	**4.** Nathan Smith	**4.** Jan Jenik
5. Andrew Ladd	**5.** Jack McBain	**5.** Michael Carcone

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Shayne Gostisbehere	**6.** Josh Brown	**1.** Karel Vejmelka
2. Jakob Chychrun	**7.** Patrik Nemeth	**2.** Ivan Prosvetov
3. Troy Stecher	**8.** Conor Timmins	**3.** Jon Gillies
4. Dysin Mayo	**9.** Vladislav Kolyachonok	✚ INJURED
5. J.J. Moser	**10.** Cam Dineen	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Anton Stralman, D; Phil Kessel, RW; Kyle Capobianco, D; Alex Galchenyuk, C; Loui Eriksson, LW; Jay Beagle, C; Dmitrij Jaskin, RW; Antoine Roussel, LW

DYLAN
GUENTHER

GUENTHER: ANDY DEVLIN/ EDMONTON OIL KINGS

FUTURE WATCH

PRESIDING OVER HIS SECOND Coyotes draft, GM Bill Armstrong continued to build a foundation, picking 10 times, including thrice in the first round. The big decision was taking Logan Cooley over Shane Wright third overall – but it still gives Arizona a scoring-line center for the future (and if not Cooley, 11th overall pick Conor Geekie is another option). Armstrong also fortified the team's blueline pipeline, starting with towering Maveric Lamoureux.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Dylan Guenther, RW

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Edmonton (WHL)
Whip-smart winger has natural goal-scoring touch and high-end skill. On fast track to NHL.
Acquired 9th overall, 2021 **NHL** '22-23

2. Logan Cooley, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** USA U18 (NTDP)
What he lacks in size he makes up for in speed and smarts. Vastly improved two-way game.
Acquired 3rd overall, 2022 **NHL** '24-25

3. Conor Geekie, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Winnipeg (WHL)
Impressive skill and skating given his size. He showcased his playmaking ability in draft year.
Acquired 11th overall, 2022 **NHL** '24-25

4. Victor Soderstrom, D

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Tucson (AHL)
Smooth-skating blueliner is a one-man breakout. Cool customer plays smart, simple game.
Acquired 11th overall, 2019 **NHL** '23-24

5. Maveric Lamoureux, D

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Drummondville (QMJHL)
Towering, 6-foot-7 defender skates deceivingly well. Million-dollar question is his ceiling.
Acquired 29th overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

6. Matias Maccelli, LW

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Tucson (AHL)
Ceiling looks higher each season. Proved NHL readiness with exceptional AHL campaign.
Acquired 98th overall, 2019 **NHL** '22-23

7. Nathan Smith, C

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Minn. State (CCHA)
Four NHL points after great NCAA year and U.S. Olympic spot. Arrived in Bryan Little swap.
Acquired From Wpg, March 2022 **NHL** '22-23

8. Jack McBain, C

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Boston College (HE)
Rebuffed Wild after four-year NCAA career and traded for a second-round pick.
Acquired From Min, March 2022 **NHL** '22-23

9. Josh Doan, RW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Arizona State (NCAA)
Pass-first winger has a great shot and NHL frame. Has dad's willingness to play hard game.
Acquired 37th overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

10. Julian Lutz, LW

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Munich (Ger.)
His physical attributes make scouts salivate. Lost majority of last season to back injury.
Acquired 43rd overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Jon Gillies	28	StL/NJ	20	3	10	2	3.70	.887
Josef Korenar	24	Tucson (AHL)	22	3	13	2	4.46	.855
Rasmus Korhonen	20	Hermes (Fin2)	28	8	9	5	2.28	.905
Ivan Prosvetov	23	Tucson (AHL)	45	15	22	8	3.66	.880
David Tendeck	22	Rapid City (ECHL)	20	5	13	1	3.54	.901
Anson Thornton	19	Sarnia (OHL)	26	8	16	0	4.06	.883
Karel Veljmeka	26	Arizona	52	13	32	3	3.68	.898

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Axel Bergkvist	22	Mora (Swe2)	51	10	31	41	20
Josh Brown	28	Ott/Bos	52	0	6	6	37
Jakob Chychrun	24	Arizona	47	7	14	21	47
Cameron Crotty	23	Tucson (AHL)	68	4	5	9	30
Cam Dineen	24	Arizona	34	0	7	7	4
Artem Duda	18	K.A. Moscow (Rus Jr.)	52	14	27	41	21
Shane Gostisbehere	29	Arizona	82	14	37	51	26
Michael Karrow	23	Michigan Tech (Big 10)	37	2	8	10	26
Lukas Klok	27	Nizhnekamsk (KHL)	44	5	26	31	27
Ronald Knot	28	Nizhnekamsk (KHL)	49	4	13	17	26
Vladislav Kolyachonok	21	Arizona	32	1	2	3	6
Patrick Kudla	26	Dukla Trencin (Svk)	50	4	18	22	22
Maveric Lamoureux	18	Drummondville (QMJHL)	54	4	20	24	69
Jeremy Langlois	19	Cape Breton (QMJHL)	60	13	34	47	58
Emil Martinsen Lilleberg	21	Oskarshamn (Swe)	47	0	7	7	16
Dysin Mayo	26	Arizona	67	4	8	12	27
Matthew Morden	18	St. Andrew's (High-ON)	41	8	27	35	41
Janis Moser	22	Arizona	43	4	11	15	16
Patrik Nemeth	30	NY Rangers	63	2	5	7	28
Vili Saarijarvi	25	Lukko (Fin)	52	17	26	43	12
Victor Soderstrom	21	Tucson (AHL)	32	3	16	19	24
Troy Stetcher	28	Det/LA	29	1	2	3	13
Maksymilian Szuber	20	Munchen (Ger)	35	1	6	7	6
Cal Thomas	19	SF/Chi (USHL)	61	4	21	25	59
Connor Timmins	24	Arizona	6	0	0	0	0

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Carson Bantle	20	Wisconsin (Big10)	27	8	6	14	28
Filip Barklund	20	Orebro (Swe Jr.)	19	6	13	19	10
Nick Bjugstad	30	Minnesota	57	7	6	13	20
Travis Boyd	29	Arizona	74	17	18	35	34
Michael Carcone	26	Tucson (AHL)	48	24	17	41	62
Logan Cooley	18	USA U18 (NTDP)	51	27	48	75	67
Lawson Crouse	25	Arizona	65	20	14	34	52
Alexander Daryin	22	Perm (Rus2)	27	4	6	10	6
Laurent Dauphin	27	Montreal	38	4	8	12	25
Jean-Sebastien Dea	28	Laval (AHL)	70	26	26	52	42
Josh Doan	20	Arizona St. (NCAA)	35	12	25	37	54
Elliot Ekefjard	20	Tegs (Swe3)	10	4	2	6	0
John Farinacci	21	Harvard (ECAC)	29	10	9	19	12
Ilya Fedotov	19	Niz. Novgorod (KHL)	35	2	0	2	17
Christian Fischer	25	Arizona	53	5	5	10	14
Conor Geekie	18	Winnipeg (WHL)	63	24	46	70	49
Dylan Guenther	19	Edmonton (WHL)	59	45	46	91	45
Barrett Hayton	22	Arizona	60	10	14	24	20
Bokondji Imama	26	Tucson (AHL)	54	5	7	12	178
Jan Jenik	22	Tucson (AHL)	51	17	30	47	67
Zack Kassian	31	Edmonton	58	6	13	19	63
Milos Keleman	23	Mlada Boleslav (Cze)	44	5	13	18	12
Clayton Keller	24	Arizona	67	28	35	63	28
Liam Kirk	22	Tucson (AHL)	8	2	1	3	2
Andrew Ladd	36	Arizona	51	7	5	12	47
Manix Landry	19	Gatineau (QMJHL)	63	17	28	45	20
Sam Lipkin	19	Chicago (USHL)	59	36	35	71	51
Bryan Little	34	Arizona	INJURED - DID NOT PLAY				
Julian Lutz	18	Munchen (Ger)	14	1	2	3	8
Matias Maccelli	21	Tucson (AHL)	47	14	43	57	20
Miko Matikka	18	Jokerit (Fin Jr.)	30	19	14	33	22
Jack McBain	22	Boston College (HE)	24	19	14	33	14
Ben McCartney	21	Tucson (AHL)	57	18	17	35	60
Ryan McGregor	23	Tucson (AHL)	17	1	4	5	6
Valentin Nussbaumer	22	Davos (Swi)	16	5	3	8	2
Liam O'Brien	28	Arizona	68	3	5	8	174
Aku Raty	21	Karpat (Fin)	56	11	11	22	34
Nick Ritchie	26	Tor/Ari	57	12	11	23	43
Anthony Romano	21	Clarkson (ECAC)	37	15	13	28	18
Danil Savunov	20	SKA-Neva (Rus2)	5	2	2	4	0
Nick Schmaltz	26	Arizona	63	23	36	59	14
Nathan Smith	24	Minn. St.-Mank. (NCHC)	38	19	31	50	43
Adam Zlnka	18	Sioux Falls (USHL)	10	1	3	4	19

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																		2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	P/GP	EVG	EVP	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	OTG	GWG	S	S%	TOI/GP	FOW%	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM
Clayton Keller	67	28	35	63	3	28	0.94	22	50	5	11	1	2	2	2	177	15.8	20:08	42.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nick Schmaltz	63	23	36	59	1	14	0.94	19	51	4	8	0	0	0	4	123	18.7	18:15	47.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Phil Kessel	82	8	44	52	-24	40	0.63	6	38	2	14	0	0	0	0	175	4.6	16:41	33.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Shayne Gostisbehere	82	14	37	51	-23	26	0.62	12	32	2	19	0	0	1	2	151	9.3	22:11	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Travis Boyd	74	17	18	35	-10	34	0.47	15	31	2	4	0	0	1	2	88	19.3	16:31	45.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lawson Crouse	65	20	14	34	-9	52	0.52	16	26	3	7	1	1	0	4	131	15.3	17:26	33.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Barrett Hayton	60	10	14	24	-8	20	0.40	8	19	2	5	0	0	0	1	82	12.2	16:07	48.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Anton Stralman	74	8	15	23	-16	12	0.31	8	23	0	0	0	0	0	1	95	8.4	21:20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jakob Chychrun	47	7	14	21	-20	47	0.45	6	20	1	1	0	0	1	2	141	5.0	23:00	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alex Galchenyuk	60	6	15	21	-11	32	0.35	6	20	0	1	0	0	0	0	89	6.7	13:09	52.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Loui Eriksson	73	3	16	19	-18	6	0.26	2	17	0	1	1	1	0	0	81	3.7	12:55	55.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Johan Larsson	29	6	9	15	-3	30	0.52	5	13	1	2	0	0	0	1	30	20.0	17:51	46.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
J.J. Moser	43	4	11	15	-10	16	0.35	3	13	1	2	0	0	0	1	40	10.0	18:42	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nick Ritchie	24	10	4	14	-7	20	0.58	10	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	24.4	13:41	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Andrew Ladd	51	7	5	12	-20	47	0.24	4	8	3	4	0	0	0	0	57	12.3	14:07	70.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dysin Mayo	67	4	8	12	-22	27	0.18	4	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	76	5.3	20:55	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Christian Fischer	53	5	5	10	-15	14	0.19	4	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	76	6.6	13:07	34.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kyle Capobianco	45	2	7	9	-12	38	0.20	1	7	1	2	0	0	1	1	40	5.0	16:00	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ilya Lyubushkin	46	0	9	9	-6	26	0.20	0	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	33	0.0	18:07	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Antoine Roussel	53	4	4	8	-16	59	0.15	4	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	59	6.8	12:09	43.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ryan Dzingel	26	4	3	7	-3	35	0.27	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	23	17.4	13:07	43.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cam Dineen	34	0	7	7	-16	4	0.21	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	0.0	15:38	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Michael Carcone	21	4	2	6	-8	14	0.29	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	11.1	12:19	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Matias Maccelli	23	1	5	6	-10	4	0.26	1	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	21	4.8	14:12	100.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nathan Smith	10	2	2	4	-1	2	0.40	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	14.3	14:09	39.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Riley Nash	24	0	4	4	-3	4	0.17	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0.0	13:05	51.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Liam O'Brien	39	2	1	3	1	106	0.08	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	5.6	9:29	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jack McBain	10	2	1	3	-6	6	0.30	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	15.4	14:11	34.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jan Jenik	13	2	1	3	-6	11	0.23	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	22	9.1	10:41	42.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Vladislav Kolyachonok	32	1	2	3	0	6	0.09	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	4.2	15:51	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jay Beagle	33	1	1	2	-20	27	0.06	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	4.2	13:47	57.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Bokondji Imama	4	1	0	1	-2	5	0.25	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	33.3	4:31	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dmitrij Jaskin	12	0	1	1	-6	4	0.08	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0.0	14:47	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hudson Fasching	11	0	0	0	-3	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0	9:53	100.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Blake Speers	2	0	0	0	-3	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	9:10	54.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Conor Timmins	6	0	0	0	-6	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.0	17:45	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Victor Soderstrom	16	0	0	0	-7	6	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0.0	16:19	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ben McCartney	2	0	0	0	0	4	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	14:03	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	GP	GS	W	L	OT	SA	SVS	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO	G	A	P	PIM	GP	GS	W	L	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO
Karel Vejmelka	52	49	13	32	3	1,669	1,499	170	.898	3.68	2773:14	1	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Scott Wedgewood	26	23	10	12	2	878	800	78	.911	3.16	1481:26	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Harri Sateri	6	4	2	2	1	157	136	21	.866	4.22	298:22	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Josef Korenar	2	0	0	0	0	35	32	3	.914	2.56	70:18	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ivan Prosvetov	3	3	0	2	1	104	91	13	.875	4.22	185:00	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Carter Hutton	3	3	0	2	0	58	43	15	.741	7.76	115:58	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Thu, Oct 13	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 15	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 17	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 20	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	@ Ottawa	4:00 PM
Tue, Oct 25	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Fri, Oct 28	vs Winnipeg	10:30 PM
Sun, Oct 30	vs NY Rangers	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	vs Florida	10:00 PM
Thu, Nov 3	vs Dallas	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 5	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 8	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 10	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 12	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 13	@ NY Rangers	6:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Mon, Nov 21	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 23	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 25	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Sun, Nov 27	@ Minnesota	2:00 PM
Thu, Dec 1	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Sat, Dec 3	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Mon, Dec 5	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Wed, Dec 7	@ Edmonton	9:30 PM
Fri, Dec 9	vs Boston	9:30 PM
Sun, Dec 11	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 13	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Fri, Dec 16	vs NY Islanders	9:30 PM
Sat, Dec 17	vs Buffalo	9:00 PM
Mon, Dec 19	vs Montreal	10:00 PM
Wed, Dec 21	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 23	vs Los Angeles	9:30 PM
Tue, Dec 27	vs Colorado	9:00 PM
Thu, Dec 29	vs Toronto	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 31	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 3	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 5	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 6	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Sun, Jan 8	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 10	vs San Jose	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 12	vs Ottawa	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 14	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sun, Jan 15	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 17	vs Detroit	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 19	vs Washington	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sun, Jan 22	vs Vegas	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 24	vs Anaheim	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 26	vs St. Louis	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 28	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Mon, Feb 6	vs Minnesota	9:00 PM
Fri, Feb 10	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Sat, Feb 11	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Mon, Feb 13	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Wed, Feb 15	vs Tampa Bay	9:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Sun, Feb 19	vs Columbus	8:30 PM
Wed, Feb 22	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Sun, Feb 26	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 28	vs Chicago	9:00 PM
Wed, Mar 1	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Fri, Mar 3	vs Carolina	9:30 PM
Sun, Mar 5	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 7	vs St. Louis	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 9	vs Nashville	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	@ Colorado	6:00 PM
Sun, Mar 12	vs Minnesota	9:30 PM
Tue, Mar 14	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 16	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 18	vs Chicago	10:30 PM
Tue, Mar 21	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Wed, Mar 22	@ Edmonton	10:30 PM
Fri, Mar 24	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Sun, Mar 26	vs Colorado	3:00 PM
Mon, Mar 27	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Fri, Mar 31	vs Dallas	10:30 PM
Sat, Apr 1	vs San Jose	10:00 PM
Mon, Apr 3	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Thu, Apr 6	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 8	vs Anaheim	5:30 PM
Mon, Apr 10	vs Seattle	10:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM

JAKOB
CHYCHRUN

DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS

BOSTON BRUINS

THN PREDICTION | 5TH IN ATLANTIC

DAVID PASTRNAK

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD
51-26-5 (.652)

OVERTIME
9-3

SHOOTOUT
2-2

OVERALL
10th

OFFENSE
3.09 GPG (15th)

DEFENSE
2.66 GAA (4th)

POWER PLAY
21.2% (15th)

PENALTY KILL
81.3% (9th)

CORSI FOR/60
59.44 (9th)

CORSI AGAINST/60
49.64 (2nd)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
B. Marchand (19:15)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
C. McAvoy (24:38)

BY MATT KALMAN

A FOURTH-PLACE finish in the Atlantic Division and a first-round exit from the playoffs last season required someone to take the fall. Such is the high standard the Bruins have set for themselves for more than a decade now.

So, a few weeks after the exit interviews were completed, GM Don Sweeney fired coach Bruce Cassidy and replaced him with Jim Montgomery, who's now three years removed from having his stint as the Dallas Stars' bench boss end halfway through his second season due to personal reasons.

Sweeney, who acknowledged he could be the next to go if the Bruins don't get back on track, is hoping Montgomery's voice will better get through to some of Boston's younger players and his strategies will make the Bruins' offense more formidable.

With mostly the same roster returning and salary-cap limitations making it unlikely there'll be any major changes, Montgomery will have his work cut out for him, especially in a division with Florida, Tampa Bay and Toronto as contenders and Ottawa on the way up.

>OFFENSE

David Pastrnak hit the 40-goal mark for the second straight full NHL season – he had 40 in 2021-22 and 48 in 2019-20. He's looking to thrive in his final season before he becomes eligible to hit unrestricted free agency next summer. Last year, the move of Pastrnak from his usual line with Bergeron and Brad Marchand to the second unit made the Bruins more balanced. Boston also got a spark from Jake DeBrusk, who moved up to the top line and finished with 25 goals. He'll need to match that mark now that he's rescinded his trade demand, and Taylor Hall will have to build on his 20-goal season.

Bergeron re-upped for another year in early August after there was some thinking he would retire. And David Krejci returns from a season in his native Czechia, giving the Bruins an imposing three-headed monster down the middle – along with Charlie Coyle – and the ability to play the newly acquired Pavel Zacha on the wing.

>DEFENSE

Charlie McAvoy continued to emerge as the Norris Trophy-level defenseman Boston always projected him to be, and true to their long-built identity, the Bruins were fourth in the NHL in goals allowed per game last season

FAST FACTS

COACH
Jim Montgomery

GM
Don Sweeney

ARENA
TD Garden

CAPACITY
17,565

AHL AFFILIATE
Providence Bruins

ECHL AFFILIATE
Maine Mariners

PLAYOFF RECORD
34-30 (since 2018)

BRAD
MARCHAND

ERIC BOLTE-USA TODAY SPORTS

(2.66). But aside from McAvoy (56 points), there was a dearth of offense from the blueline, and that's one of the major flaws Montgomery must fix moving forward.

In fact, the rest of Boston's defense corps chipped in just 21 goals in 2021-22, with Matt Grzelcyk producing just four goals and 24 points. Improved play from Grzelcyk, along with a full season of Hampus Lindholm – who was acquired from Anaheim just before the trade deadline and chipped in five assists in 10 regular-season games – should give the B's a boost in this department.

>GOALTENDING

After a decade-plus of Tim Thomas and then Tuukka Rask tending goal in Boston, the crease situation in 2021-22 was the most uncertain it had been in a long time for the Bruins. But Jeremy Swayman made the most of his rookie campaign, and Linus Ullmark proved he was worthy of the four-year, $20-million UFA deal he signed in July 2021. After leading the Bruins to a fourth-place finish in league GAA, Swayman grabbed the net and produced a .911 save percentage in five playoff starts, earning valuable experience. Look for Swayman and Ullmark to share the net again, with Kyle Keyser getting his first NHL look if injuries hit.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

Cassidy looked like a power-play genius for much of his tenure, but the Bruins were pedestrian with the man advantage last season, finishing tied for 15th overall with a 21.2-percent efficiency. Of course, it wasn't just about the coaching. The Bruins need to get more creative and not just rely on Pastrnak's blasts from the left circle or Bergeron's redirects from the bumper position. This is where Hall and an improving McAvoy will have to step up. With strong goaltending as its base, Boston's penalty kill should continue to be top-10 material, led by the defense-minded pair of Brandon Carlo and Derek Forbort.

>INTANGIBLES

The last time Boston changed coaches (2016-17), it rode the spark to its first playoff berth following a two-year absence. A new voice in the room could have a similar impact, particularly on the younger players. Even with Bergeron in the lineup, Boston's younger veterans – McAvoy, Carlo and Pastrnak – will have to continue to take the leadership reins. They all have experience from Boston's playoff runs, including the bitter taste of the 2019 Cup final loss.

>ROOKIES

There was hope Fabian Lysell could've joined the lineup last spring if Boston had lasted long enough in the playoffs. Lysell, a first-round pick in 2021, lit up the WHL for 22 goals and 62 points in 53 games with Vancouver. Boston is banking on him claiming a roster spot this season.

CUP ODDS

37/1

>X-FACTOR

Every year, it looks like the Bruins' championship window is almost closed, yet they continue to postpone their rebuild, and they have now made the playoffs for six straight seasons. The right mix of veteran production and health, improved play from younger players and some new philosophies from Montgomery could keep that streak alive.

>THE BRASS

Sweeney has done some of his best work at the trade deadline, as opposed to his laundry list of failed summertime free-agent signees. He's depleted much of Boston's future draft capital and prospect cupboard, however, so he's hoping Montgomery can better develop prospects and integrate them into the lineup. If the plan doesn't work, there could be a rare Boston GM change in the offing. H

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Brad Marchand ✚	1. Patrice Bergeron	1. David Pastrnak
2. Taylor Hall	2. David Krejci	2. Pavel Zacha
3. Jake DeBrusk	3. Charlie Coyle	3. Craig Smith
4. Trent Frederic	4. Jack Studnicka	4. Oskar Steen
5. Nick Foligno	5. Tomas Nosek	5. Fabian Lysell

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Charlie McAvoy ✚	6. Derek Forbort	1. Jeremy Swayman
2. Hampus Lindholm	7. Mike Reilly	2. Linus Ullmark
3. Brandon Carlo	8. Jakub Zboril	3. Kyle Keyser
4. Matt Grzelcyk ✚	9. Jack Ahcan	✚ INJURED
5. Connor Clifton	10. Michael Callahan	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Erik Haula, C; Curtis Lazar, C; Josh Brown, D; Anton Blidh, LW

FABIAN LYSELL

FUTURE WATCH

BOSTON'S FARM TEAM IN Providence didn't have a lot of offensive threats last year, and the system is among the thinnest in the league. Fabian Lysell, who dominated the WHL playoffs, is a skilled kid who the Bruins will need in a couple years, while late-rounder Oskar Jellvik has turned heads. With no first-rounder in 2022, the B's landed smarts and skill up front in Matthew Poitras, while opting for a lot of grit and defense in the latter rounds.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Fabian Lysell, RW

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Vancouver (WHL)
Speedy winger makes plays at top speed and pushes pace. Uncanny ability to pick right pass.
Acquired 21st overall, 2021 **NHL** '23-24

2. Matthew Poitras, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Guelph (OHL)
Get him the puck and he'll find an open teammate. Some question if he can carry an attack.
Acquired 54th overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

3. Mason Lohrei, D

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Ohio State (Big Ten)
Deceptively adept skater for a 6-foot-4 man. Forward-turned-blueliner has offensive bent.
Acquired 58th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

4. Jack Studnicka, C

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Providence (AHL)
Big body always sniffing around the blue paint. Struggled to hit stride after pandemic season.
Acquired 53rd overall, 2017 **NHL** '22-23

5. Johnny Beecher, C

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Michigan (Big Ten)
Immovable force and unstoppable object when at his best. Seamlessly transitioned to AHL.
Acquired 30th overall, 2019 **NHL** '23-24

6. Jakub Lauko, C

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Providence (AHL)
Acceleration makes north-south game his strong suit. Decline in production worrisome.
Acquired 77th overall, 2018 **NHL** '23-24

7. Brett Harrison, C

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Oshawa (OHL)
Top-six center attributes, but consistency is key. Got experience with Finnish loan last season.
Acquired 85th overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

8. Oskar Steen, C

Age 24 **2021-22 Team** Providence (AHL)
Began piecing it together in career-best AHL campaign last season. Thrives in tight spaces.
Acquired 165th overall, 2016 **NHL** '22-23

9. Jack Ahcan, D

Age 25 **2021-22 Team** Providence (AHL)
Diminutive, hard-working blueliner experienced life in ECHL, AHL and NHL since leaving college.
Acquired Free agent, March 2020 **NHL** '23-24

10. Trevor Kuntar, C

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Boston College (HE)
No fear in his game, and a big-league shot already. More project than NHL-ready prospect.
Acquired 89 overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Brandon Bussi	24	W. Michigan (NCHC)	39	26	12	1	2.55	.912
Reid Dyck	18	Swift Current (WHL)	23	6	12	1	2.26	.884
Kyle Keyser	23	Providence (AHL)	33	11	14	1	2.75	.908
Keith Kincaid	33	Hartford (AHL)	37	20	14	3	2.94	.904
Philip Svedeback	20	Dubuque (USHL)	25	15	7	3	2.95	.910
Jeremy Swayman	23	Boston	41	23	14	3	2.41	.914
Linus Ullmark	29	Boston	41	26	10	2	2.45	.917

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Jack Ahcan	25	Providence (AHL)	46	6	17	23	10
Victor Berglund	23	Providence (AHL)	46	6	12	18	30
Frederic Brunet	19	Rimouski (QMJHL)	63	12	34	46	16
Roman Bychkov	21	Khaborovsk (KHL)	22	0	2	2	8
Michael Callahan	23	Providence (HE)	38	3	11	14	16
Brandon Carlo	25	Boston	79	6	9	15	31
Connor Carrick	28	Charlotte (AHL)	59	10	22	32	67
Maxim Chudinov	32	Omsk (KHL)	32	2	6	8	16
Connor Clifton	27	Boston	60	2	8	10	32
Jackson Edward	18	London (OHL)	54	0	6	6	51
Derek Forbort	30	Boston	76	4	10	14	48
Ty Gallagher	19	Boston Univ. (HE)	34	5	11	16	35
Matt Grzelcyk	28	Boston	73	4	20	24	24
Mason Langenbrunner	20	Fargo (USHL)	61	2	20	22	47
Hampus Lindholm	28	Ana/Bos	71	5	22	27	46
Mason Lohrei	21	Ohio St. (Big10)	31	4	25	29	20
Ryan Mast	19	Sarnia (OHL)	59	9	22	31	52
Charlie McAvoy	24	Boston	78	10	46	56	66
Dustyn McFaul	22	Clarkson (ECAC)	34	2	4	6	24
Mike Reilly	29	Boston	70	4	13	17	32
Daniel Renouf	28	Grand Rapids (AHL)	63	3	11	14	53
Kai Wissmann	25	Berlin (Ger)	55	4	16	20	24
Nick Wolff	26	Providence (AHL)	32	0	8	8	83
Jakub Zboril	25	Boston	10	0	3	3	4

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Samuel Asselin	24	Providence (AHL)	68	8	22	30	66
Jack Becker	25	Arizona St. (NCAA)	35	8	16	24	12
John Beecher	21	Michigan (Big10)	34	6	9	15	41
Patrice Bergeron	37	Boston	73	25	40	65	32
Peter Cehlarik	27	Omsk (KHL)	39	14	11	25	8
Charlie Coyle	30	Boston	82	16	28	44	32
Jake DeBrusk	25	Boston	77	25	17	42	10
Riley Duran	20	Providence (HE)	38	10	9	19	18
Matt Filipe	25	Providence (AHL)	59	7	10	17	52
Nick Foligno	34	Boston	64	2	11	13	61
Jakob Forsbacka Karlsson	25	Vax/Farj (Swe)	50	5	8	13	8
Trent Frederic	24	Boston	60	8	10	18	57
Andre Gasseau	19	Fargo (USHL)	60	22	16	38	20
A.J. Greer	25	Utica (AHL)	53	22	30	52	102
Curtis Hall	22	Providence (AHL)	52	2	3	5	4
Taylor Hall	30	Boston	81	20	41	61	42
Brett Harrison	19	Oshawa (OHL)	65	27	34	61	16
Oskar Jellvik	19	Djurgarden (Swe Jr.)	41	26	29	55	14
Joona Koppanen	24	Providence (AHL)	62	11	19	30	20
Trevor Kuntar	21	Boston Col. (HE)	36	9	11	20	33
David Krejci	36	Olomouc (Cze)	51	20	26	46	24
Jakub Lauko	22	Providence (AHL)	54	3	13	16	56
Vinni Lettieri	27	Anaheim	31	5	5	10	6
Dans Locmelis	18	Lulea (Swe Jr.)	44	18	16	34	16
Fabian Lysell	19	Vancouver (WHL)	53	22	40	62	52
Matias Mantykivi	21	Ilves (Fin)	51	12	19	31	24
Brad Marchand	34	Boston	70	32	48	90	97
Marc McLaughlin	23	Boston Col. (HE)	33	21	11	32	22
Georgii Merkulov	21	Ohio St. (Big10)	36	20	14	34	10
Tomas Nosek	30	Boston	75	3	14	17	32
Quinn Olson	21	Minn.-Duluth (NCHC)	42	6	19	25	41
David Pastrnak	26	Boston	72	40	37	77	20
Matthew Poitras	18	Guelph (OHL)	68	21	29	50	58
Jake Schmaltz	21	North Dakota (NCHC)	39	8	16	24	10
Craig Smith	33	Boston	74	16	20	36	28
Cole Spicer	18	USA U18 (NTDP)	58	20	19	39	22
Oskar Steen	24	Providence (AHL)	49	15	20	35	26
Jack Studnicka	23	Providence (AHL)	41	10	25	35	36
Chris Wagner	31	Providence (AHL)	62	15	12	27	39
Pavel Zacha	25	New Jersey	70	15	21	36	22

LYSELL: ROB WILTON/VANCOUVER GIANTS

STATS | 2021-22

2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																				2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	P/GP	EVG	EVP	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	OTG	GWG	S	S%	TOI/GP	FOW%	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM
Brad Marchand	70	32	48	80	16	97	1.14	23	51	7	27	2	2	1	6	242	13.2	19:15	34.2	7	4	7	11	3	10
David Pastrnak	72	40	37	77	13	20	1.07	25	51	15	26	0	0	1	9	312	12.8	18:36	33.3	7	3	3	6	1	2
Patrice Bergeron	73	25	40	65	26	32	0.89	17	39	8	23	0	3	0	4	293	8.5	18:10	61.9	7	3	4	7	3	4
Taylor Hall	81	20	41	61	11	42	0.75	13	46	7	15	0	0	1	3	217	9.2	16:25	46.2	7	2	2	4	-6	8
Charlie McAvoy	78	10	46	56	31	66	0.72	5	34	4	21	1	1	1	5	166	6.0	24:38	--	6	0	5	5	2	4
Erik Haula	78	18	26	44	19	47	0.56	16	40	2	4	0	0	0	3	141	12.8	15:06	53.9	7	1	2	3	-4	8
Charlie Coyle	82	16	28	44	-6	32	0.54	13	34	3	9	0	1	2	5	131	12.2	17:24	49.1	7	2	4	6	-7	2
Jake DeBrusk	77	25	17	42	6	10	0.55	22	38	3	4	0	0	2	8	184	13.6	15:02	45.5	7	2	2	4	-7	2
Craig Smith	74	16	20	36	2	28	0.49	16	32	0	4	0	0	0	1	187	8.6	14:25	33.3	7	0	0	0	-5	2
Matt Grzelcyk	73	4	20	24	22	24	0.33	4	19	0	5	0	0	1	2	118	3.4	18:44	--	5	0	0	0	-6	6
Trent Frederic	60	8	10	18	10	57	0.30	8	18	0	0	0	0	0	1	100	8.0	11:39	39.3	4	0	0	0	-2	16
Mike Reilly	70	4	13	17	-1	32	0.24	3	13	0	3	1	1	0	0	135	3.0	18:57	--	5	0	0	0	1	2
Tomas Nosek	75	3	14	17	-9	32	0.23	3	15	0	0	0	2	0	1	84	3.6	13:21	54.0	7	0	2	2	1	0
Curtis Lazar	70	8	8	16	-2	16	0.23	8	15	0	0	0	1	0	0	95	8.4	12:00	48.9	7	1	0	1	1	2
Brandon Carlo	79	6	9	15	2	31	0.19	5	13	0	1	1	1	0	0	125	4.8	19:42	--	7	0	1	1	-5	6
Derek Forbort	76	4	10	14	2	48	0.18	4	13	0	0	0	1	0	1	64	6.3	18:07	--	7	1	0	1	-1	12
Nick Foligno	64	2	11	13	-13	61	0.20	2	12	0	1	0	0	0	0	99	2.0	12:28	56.4	7	0	1	1	2	4
Connor Clifton	60	2	8	10	-2	32	0.17	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	80	2.5	16:04	--	7	1	1	2	1	8
Anton Blidh	32	2	7	9	-3	24	0.28	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	7.1	10:44	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Oskar Steen	20	2	4	6	-1	6	0.30	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	8.0	11:04	16.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hampus Lindholm	10	0	5	5	10	4	0.50	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	23	0.0	22:17	--	4	0	0	0	2	0
Urho Vaakanainen	15	0	4	4	0	4	0.27	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0.0	19:17	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Marc McLaughlin	11	3	0	3	-1	8	0.27	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	25.0	10:29	33.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jakub Zboril	10	0	3	3	1	4	0.30	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0.0	15:44	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jack Studnicka	15	0	3	3	-5	4	0.20	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0.0	12:35	48.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Karson Kuhlman	19	1	1	2	0	0	0.11	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	4.6	10:14	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jack Ahcan	6	1	0	1	-3	0	0.17	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	5	20.0	16:02	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jesper Froden	7	1	0	1	4	2	0.14	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10.0	12:52	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
John Moore	7	0	1	1	2	4	0.14	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	0.0	17:34	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Chris Wagner	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	15:57	0.0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Steven Fogarty	2	0	0	0	-2	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	10:18	41.2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tyler Lewington	2	0	0	0	-1	7	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	12:27	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Josh Brown	6	0	0	0	2	5	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	15:58	--	1	0	0	0	-2	0

2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																	2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	GP	GS	W	L	OT	SA	SVS	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO	G	A	P	PIM	GP	GS	W	L	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO
Linus Ullmark	41	39	26	10	2	1,140	1,045	95	.917	2.45	2330:26	1	4	2	2	0	2	57	49	8	.860	4.16	115:15	0	0
Jeremy Swayman	41	39	23	14	3	1,111	1,015	96	.914	2.41	2390:14	3	6	5	5	3	2	146	133	13	.911	2.63	296:07	0	0
Tuukka Rask	4	4	2	2	0	90	76	14	.844	4.28	196:21	0	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Wed, Oct 12	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 15	vs Arizona	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 17	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 18	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 20	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	vs Minnesota	1:00 PM
Tue, Oct 25	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 27	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Fri, Oct 28	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 3	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 5	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 7	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 10	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 12	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 13	vs Vancouver	6:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 21	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 23	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 25	vs Carolina	1:00 PM
Tue, Nov 29	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 3	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 5	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 7	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Fri, Dec 9	@ Arizona	9:30 PM
Sun, Dec 11	@ Vegas	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 13	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 15	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 17	vs Columbus	1:00 PM
Mon, Dec 19	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 22	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 23	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 27	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 28	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 31	vs Buffalo	1:00 PM
Mon, Jan 2	vs Pittsburgh	2:00 PM
Thu, Jan 5	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Sat, Jan 7	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sun, Jan 8	@ Anaheim	8:30 PM
Thu, Jan 12	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 14	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 16	vs Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Wed, Jan 18	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 19	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 22	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 24	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 26	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 28	@ Florida	6:00 PM
Sun, Jan 29	@ Carolina	5:00 PM
Wed, Feb 1	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Sat, Feb 11	vs Washington	3:00 PM
Tue, Feb 14	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Thu, Feb 16	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	vs NY Islanders	5:00 PM
Mon, Feb 20	vs Ottawa	1:00 PM
Thu, Feb 23	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 25	@ Vancouver	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 27	@ Edmonton	8:30 PM
Tue, Feb 28	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 2	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 4	vs NY Rangers	3:00 PM
Thu, Mar 9	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	vs Detroit	1:00 PM
Sun, Mar 12	@ Detroit	1:00 PM
Tue, Mar 14	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Thu, Mar 16	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 18	@ Minnesota	2:00 PM
Sun, Mar 19	@ Buffalo	1:00 PM
Tue, Mar 21	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 23	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	vs Tampa Bay	1:00 PM
Sun, Mar 26	@ Carolina	5:00 PM
Tue, Mar 28	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 30	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 1	@ Pittsburgh	3:00 PM
Sun, Apr 2	@ St. Louis	3:30 PM
Thu, Apr 6	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 8	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 9	@ Philadelphia	6:00 PM
Tue, Apr 11	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	@ Montreal	7:00 PM

CHARLIE MCAVOY

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

BUFFALO SABRES

THN PREDICTION | 6TH IN ATLANTIC

RASMUS DAHLIN

BY BILL HOPPE

IN EARLY MARCH, THE Sabres put a decade of futility behind them, beginning the franchise's best stretch in a long time. The Sabres closed the 2021-22 season on a tear, going on a 16-9-3 run. (Remember, they won just 15 of 56 games the previous season.) Buffalo's late-season success wasn't a fluke. Since beginning a rebuild during the disastrous 2020-21 campaign, GM Kevyn Adams has dramatically reshaped the roster, infusing the organization with young talent and establishing a stronger culture. Don Granato, meanwhile, has proven to be their best coach since Lindy Ruff.

Defenseman Rasmus Dahlin and center Tage Thompson have morphed into two of the NHL's top young stars, while veteran winger Jeff Skinner recaptured his slick form. A franchise once plagued by dysfunction now enjoys stability under Adams and Granato. The Sabres, who own the longest playoff drought in NHL history at 11 seasons, are generating excitement and optimism again.

>OFFENSE

Even after trading leading scorers Jack Eichel and Sam Reinhart, the Sabres' offense is trending upward. Thompson and Skinner scored 38 and 33 goals, respectively, last season, while Dahlin surpassed the 50-point milestone for the first time. Right winger Victor Olofsson hit the 20-goal mark and might've cracked 30 for the first time if not for a nagging wrist injury. Even veteran winger Kyle Okposo got in on things with 21 goals, his highest total in six years.

Granato's aggressive style played to his team's strengths and helped unlock more offense. Following the arrival of center Peyton Krebs and winger Alex Tuch in the Eichel trade, the Sabres were able to ice three legitimate scoring lines on some nights.

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD	32-39-11 (.457)
OVERTIME	4-8
SHOOTOUT	3-3
OVERALL	24th
OFFENSE	2.79 GPG (22nd)
DEFENSE	3.50 GAA (25th)
POWER PLAY	21.2% (16th)
PENALTY KILL	76.4% (23rd)
CORSI FOR/60	50.62 (26th)
CORSI AGAINST/60	53.75 (10th)
ICE TIME LEAD (F)	A. Tuch (18:25)
ICE TIME LEAD (D)	R. Dahlin (24:01)

FAST FACTS

COACH	Don Granato
GM	Kevyn Adams
ARENA	KeyBank Center
CAPACITY	19,070
AHL AFFILIATE	Rochester Americans
ECHL AFFILIATE	Cincinnati Cyclones
PLAYOFF RECORD	0-0 (since 2018)

DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS

DEFENSE

The Sabres possess one of the league's youngest and most intriguing blueline groups. The seven defensemen expected to crack the opening-night roster are all in their 20s; that is, if you include the youngest, Owen Power, who is just 19. The average age of the Sabres' blueline before they signed 28-year-old Ilya Lyubushkin in free agency was 23.

In Dahlin and Power, Buffalo might have two bedrock defenders for the next decade. Dahlin began realizing his vast potential last season, earning a spot in his first All-Star Game. When he's at his best, the Swede is one of the few players capable of taking over a game. Equally, Power transitioned to the NHL almost seamlessly after leaving college in April. The 2021 No. 1 overall pick is a leading Calder Trophy candidate this season. In Lyubushkin, the Sabres added veteran muscle they sorely needed.

TAGE THOMPSON

WALTER TYCHNOWICZ-USA TODAY SPORTS

GOALTENDING

Instead of awarding prospect Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen an NHL spot, Buffalo wants to give the Finn, who's battled injuries, some more AHL seasoning. So they'll couple newcomer Eric Comrie with the NHL's oldest stopper, 41-year-old Craig Anderson. Given Anderson's age and recent injury history – hip and neck problems sidelined him for parts of last season – it's unlikely he can handle a full load. The 27-year-old Comrie will likely earn the No. 1 job. The Sabres believe Comrie, one of the NHL's best backups last season with Winnipeg, is ready to seize the opportunity.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Despite showcasing a deeper, more talented lineup last season, the power play improved almost imperceptibly, converting 21.2 percent of its chances, up from 21.0 percent in 2020-21. Still, the Sabres possess some terrific pieces. Dahlin has displayed the talents of an elite quarterback. Olofsson and Thompson are often lethal presences from the circle. The Sabres' penalty kill moved up from 26th in 2020-21 to 23rd last season, although their efficiency dropped from 77.7 percent to 76.4 percent.

INTANGIBLES

With Eichel, Reinhart, Jake McCabe and other members of the Sabres' old core playing elsewhere last season, a new leadership group quickly emerged. On the first day of training camp in 2021, Dahlin explained how badly he wanted to help change the team's culture. Granato named wingers Okposo and Zemgus Girgensons alternate captains, and the rest of the club followed the affable veterans' lead. Within weeks, it was evident the Sabres were establishing something special. The Sabres grew into a tight-knit group, and youngsters such as Dahlin, Thompson and centers Dylan Cozens and Casey Mittelstadt became strong voices. Okposo will possibly be named captain this season, but Granato has no shortage of candidates for the honor.

CUP ODDS

55/1

ROOKIES

Look for wingers JJ Peterka and Jack Quinn to crack Buffalo's opening-night roster after they combined for 54 goals and 129 points with AHL Rochester last season.

X-FACTOR

Goaltending is the Sabres' biggest question mark. Anderson often performed splendidly last season, but he's reached an age where decline is inevitable. Comrie appears poised to make another jump following his first full NHL campaign. Still, he's played just 28 big-league games – and never more than 19 in a season.

THE BRASS

Granato and Adams give the Sabres their strongest coach-GM duo since Ruff and Darcy Regier in the late 1990s and early 2000s. The duo has helped restore pride in a franchise that had become a laughingstock.

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Jeff Skinner	1. Tage Thompson	1. Victor Olofsson
2. Peyton Krebs	2. Dylan Cozens	2. Alex Tuch
3. Rasmus Asplund	3. Casey Mittelstadt	3. Kyle Okposo
4. Jack Quinn	4. Zemgus Girgensons	4. JJ Peterka
5. Anders Bjork	5. Sean Malone	5. Vinnie Hinostroza

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Rasmus Dahlin	6. Jacob Bryson	1. Eric Comrie
2. Owen Power	7. Casey Fitzgerald	2. Craig Anderson
3. Henri Jokiharju	8. Lawrence Pilut	3. Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen
4. Mattias Samuelsson	9. Kale Clague	✚ INJURED
5. Ilya Lyubushkin	10. Chase Priskie	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Cody Eakin, C; Dustin Tokarski, G; Drake Caggiula, LW; Colin Miller, D; Mark Pysyk, D; John Hayden, RW; Aaron Dell, G; Mark Jankowski, C

OWEN POWER

FUTURE WATCH

THE DAM IS ABOUT to break – in a good way – for the Sabres, with Owen Power joining Rasmus Dahlin as blueline cornerstones, plus a host of young forwards on the cusp: Jack Quinn to JJ Peterka to full-time Peyton Krebs. But GM Kevyn Adams keeps plowing away, adding three first-rounders in 2022, all forwards. Matt Savoie has speed, skill and guile, Noah Ostlund is a playmaking ace and Jiri Kulich is coming off a statement world under-18s.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Owen Power, D

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Michigan (Big Ten)
Can't-miss defender already showed flashes of player he can become. Norris Trophy potential.
Acquired 1st overall, 2021 **NHL** '22-23

2. Jack Quinn, RW

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Rochester (AHL)
Always dangerous on attack and can strike from anywhere. Developing a two-way game, too.
Acquired 8th overall, 2020 **NHL** '22-23

3. Matthew Savoie, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Winnipeg (WHL)
Elite playmaker with great speed and shot. Makes up in tenacity what he lacks in size.
Acquired 9th overall, 2022 **NHL** '24-25

4. JJ Peterka, RW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Rochester (AHL)
Point-per-game AHL production a taste of what's to come. No quit at all in his game.
Acquired 34th overall, 2020 **NHL** '22-23

5. Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen, G

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Rochester (AHL)
Big keeper plays assertive, confident game. Future starter settled into NHL duty well.
Acquired 54th overall, 2017 **NHL** '23-24

6. Noah Ostlund, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Djurgarden Jr. (Swe.)
His creativity and offensive acumen are very apparent. Finding consistency is key to success.
Acquired 16th overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

7. Jiri Kulich, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Karlovy Vary (Cze.)
Rare player who works smarter and harder. He can score plenty despite defensive-pivot tag.
Acquired 28th overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

8. Isak Rosen, LW

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Leksand (Swe.)
Adding bulk will benefit tiny scorer. Adjustment to North American game will be interesting.
Acquired 14th overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

9. Ryan Johnson, D

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Minnesota (Big Ten)
Calming presence will settle the play down in all three zones. Really good on his edges.
Acquired 31st overall, 2019 **NHL** '23-24

10. Devon Levi, G

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Northeastern (HE)
Small frame for a goalie, but his high-end anticipation more than makes up for it.
Acquired From Fla, July 2021 **NHL** '25-26

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Craig Anderson	41	Buffalo	31	17	12	2	3.12	.897
Ben Bishop	35	Dallas	INJURED - DID NOT PLAY					
Eric Comrie	27	Winnipeg	19	10	5	1	2.90	.920
Topias Leinonen	18	JYP (Fin Jr.)	21	9	10	0	2.28	.916
Devon Levi	20	Northeastern (HE)	32	21	10	1	1.54	.952
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	23	Rochester (AHL)	35	15	14	8	3.28	.900
Erik Portillo	22	Michigan (Big10)	42	31	10	1	2.14	.926
Malcolm Subban	28	Buffalo	4	0	2	1	4.85	.871

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Jacob Bryson	24	Buffalo	73	1	9	10	12
Kale Clague	24	LA/Mtl	30	2	7	9	18
Rasmus Dahlin	22	Buffalo	80	13	40	53	68
Jeremy Davies	25	Milwaukee (AHL)	54	6	25	31	47
Casey Fitzgerald	25	Buffalo	36	0	6	6	36
Ryan Johnson	21	Minnesota (NCHC)	39	3	16	19	14
Henri Jokiharju	23	Buffalo	60	3	16	19	20
Vsevolod Komarov	18	Quebec (QMJHL)	60	2	17	19	40
Oksari Laaksonen	23	Rochester (AHL)	71	5	29	34	44
Mats Lindgren	18	Kamloops (WHL)	68	5	39	44	42
Albert Lyckasen	21	Karlskoga (Swe2)	51	9	10	19	13
Ilya Lyubushkin	28	Ari/Tor	77	2	13	15	51
Nikita Novikov	19	Dynamo Moscow (KHL)	32	1	3	4	6
Philip Nyberg	25	Lindlovens (Swe3)	36	0	13	13	20
Lawrence Pilut	26	Chelyabinsk (KHL)	40	0	11	11	28
Owen Power	19	Michigan (Big10)	33	3	29	32	12
Chase Priskie	26	Charlotte (AHL)	54	8	23	31	26
Mattias Samuelsson	22	Buffalo	42	0	10	10	16

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Rasmus Asplund	24	Buffalo	80	8	19	27	10
Brandon Biro	24	Rochester (AHL)	48	12	29	41	20
Anders Bjork	26	Buffalo	58	5	3	8	10
Josh Bloom	19	Saginaw (OHL)	67	30	31	61	39
Filip Cederqvist	22	Djurgarden (Swe)	49	14	18	32	10
Matteo Constantini	20	North Dakota (NCHC)	35	8	13	21	4
Dylan Cozens	21	Buffalo	79	13	25	38	55
Zemgus Girgensons	28	Buffalo	56	10	8	18	27
Vasili Glotov	25	Sochi (KHL)	43	13	11	24	12
Vinnie Hinostroza	28	Buffalo	62	13	12	25	24
Aaron Huglen	21	Minnesota (NCHC)	37	7	9	16	14
Gustav Karlsson	18	Orebro (Swe Jr.)	41	31	17	48	10
Alexander Kisakov	19	Dyn. Moscow (Rus Jr.)	51	26	30	56	40
Jakub Konecny	20	Prague (Cze)	28	4	3	7	0
Tyson Kozak	19	Portland (WHL)	66	32	37	69	42
Peyton Krebs	21	Veg/Buf	57	7	15	22	20
Jiri Kulich	18	Karlovy Vary (Cze)	49	9	5	14	4
Sean Malone	27	Rochester (AHL)	39	20	17	37	22
Viljami Marjala	19	Quebec (QMJHL)	68	13	33	46	20
Casey Mittelstadt	23	Buffalo	40	6	13	19	4
Brett Murray	24	Rochester (AHL)	52	15	17	32	35
Olivier Nadeau	19	Shawinigan (QMJHL)	65	35	43	78	62
Viktor Neuchev	18	Yekaterinburg (Rus Jr.)	61	40	27	67	14
Kyle Okposo	34	Buffalo	74	21	24	45	43
Victor Olofsson	27	Buffalo	72	20	29	49	6
Noah Ostlund	18	Djurgarden (Swe Jr.)	32	9	33	42	6
Matej Pekar	22	Rochester (AHL)	47	3	3	6	56
JJ Peterka	20	Rochester (AHL)	70	28	40	68	28
Prokhor Poltapov	19	Moscow (Rus2)	25	3	4	7	8
Jack Quinn	21	Rochester (AHL)	45	26	35	61	23
Joel Ratkovic Berndtsson	18	Frolunda (Swe Jr.)	47	22	27	49	34
Jake Richard	18	Muskegon (USHL)	56	18	30	48	24
Isak Rosen	19	Leksand (Swe)	28	2	2	4	0
Lukas Rousek	23	Rochester (AHL)	19	1	3	4	2
Arttu Ruotsalainen	24	Rochester (AHL)	57	18	33	51	26
Stiven Sardarian	19	Youngstown (USHL)	46	8	17	25	24
Matthew Savoie	18	Winnipeg (WHL)	65	35	55	90	32
Linus Sjodin	19	Rogle (Swe)	49	5	6	11	6
Jeff Skinner	30	Buffalo	80	33	30	63	42
Tage Thompson	24	Buffalo	78	38	30	68	37
Alex Tuch	26	Buffalo	50	12	26	38	14
William von Barnekow	19	Malmo (Swe Jr.)	27	11	20	31	14
Linus Weissbach	24	Rochester (AHL)	67	16	21	37	32

POWER: JUNFU HAN/USA TODAY NETWORK

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																		2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**	**P/GP**	**EVG**	**EVP**	**PPG**	**PPP**	**SHG**	**SHP**	**OTG**	**GWG**	**S**	**S%**	**TOI/GP**	**FOW%**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**
Tage Thompson	78	38	30	68	-17	37	0.87	26	50	10	16	2	2	1	4	253	15.0	17:53	40.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jeff Skinner	80	33	30	63	-14	42	0.79	28	52	5	11	0	0	0	4	262	12.6	17:06	40.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rasmus Dahlin	80	13	40	53	-22	68	0.66	10	31	3	21	0	1	1	3	170	7.7	24:01	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Victor Olofsson	72	20	29	49	-16	6	0.68	13	36	7	12	0	1	0	6	164	12.2	15:23	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kyle Okposo	74	21	24	45	-15	43	0.61	11	29	8	14	2	2	0	1	174	12.1	16:47	49.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dylan Cozens	79	13	25	38	-19	55	0.48	11	28	2	9	0	1	0	1	160	8.1	15:54	45.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alex Tuch	50	12	26	38	-3	14	0.76	9	29	2	8	1	1	0	0	139	8.6	18:25	39.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rasmus Asplund	80	8	19	27	-5	10	0.34	5	22	2	4	1	1	1	1	130	6.2	14:17	42.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Vinnie Hinostroza	62	13	12	25	-11	24	0.40	12	24	1	1	0	0	0	2	92	14.1	13:52	42.9	--	--	--	--	--	--
Peyton Krebs	48	7	15	22	-20	20	0.46	7	12	0	10	0	0	0	2	46	15.2	14:45	35.2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Casey Mittelstadt	40	6	13	19	-14	4	0.48	5	12	1	7	0	0	1	1	79	7.6	16:07	44.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Henri Jokiharju	60	3	16	19	-8	20	0.32	3	15	0	4	0	0	0	0	83	3.6	21:53	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Zemgus Girgensons	56	10	8	18	-7	27	0.32	7	14	3	4	0	0	0	1	92	10.9	14:47	49.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Colin Miller	38	2	12	14	-2	21	0.37	2	11	0	3	0	0	0	0	48	4.2	18:59	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cody Eakin	69	4	8	12	-15	22	0.17	3	9	1	2	0	1	0	1	74	5.4	13:35	56.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mark Pysyk	68	3	9	12	-4	16	0.18	3	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	4.7	17:49	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jacob Bryson	73	1	9	10	-9	12	0.14	0	3	1	7	0	0	0	0	43	2.3	18:20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mattias Samuelsson	42	0	10	10	-10	16	0.24	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	0.0	20:00	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Anders Bjork	58	5	3	8	-14	10	0.14	5	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	9.8	12:02	20.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Will Butcher	37	2	6	8	-10	0	0.22	2	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	35	5.7	16:29	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Robert Hagg	48	1	7	8	-9	25	0.17	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	2.2	17:01	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brett Murray	19	2	4	6	-3	23	0.32	2	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	14	14.3	12:59	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Casey Fitzgerald	36	0	6	6	-19	36	0.17	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	0.0	16:53	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mark Jankowski	19	2	3	5	2	4	0.26	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	14	14.3	13:39	48.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Drake Caggiula	18	2	3	5	-4	4	0.28	2	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	23	8.7	14:38	25.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
John Hayden	55	2	2	4	-12	84	0.07	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	3.1	10:51	22.2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Arttu Ruotsalainen	18	2	2	4	-1	6	0.22	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	8.7	11:53	42.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Owen Power	8	2	1	3	3	2	0.38	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	20.0	22:05	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jack Quinn	2	1	1	2	0	0	1.00	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	6	16.7	14:53	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ethan Prow	4	1	0	1	-1	0	0.25	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	50.0	12:44	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ryan MacInnis	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	10:00	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Christian Wolanin	1	0	0	0	-2	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	8:18	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brandon Biro	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	13:30	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
JJ Peterka	2	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0	16:08	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**SA**	**SVS**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**
Craig Anderson	31	31	17	12	2	945	848	97	.897	3.12	1867:15	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dustin Tokarski	29	28	10	12	5	900	809	91	.899	3.27	1671:26	1	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Michael Houser	2	2	2	0	0	77	73	4	.948	2.00	120:00	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	9	9	2	5	2	277	254	23	.917	2.74	503:04	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Aaron Dell	12	9	1	8	1	354	316	38	.893	4.03	565:23	0	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Malcolm Subban	4	3	0	2	1	132	115	17	.871	4.85	210:28	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Thu, Oct 13	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 15	vs Florida	1:00 PM
Tue, Oct 18	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Thu, Oct 20	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Tue, Oct 25	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Thu, Oct 27	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 29	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 31	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 2	vs Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 4	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 5	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 8	vs Arizona	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 10	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 12	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 15	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 16	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 22	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 23	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 25	vs New Jersey	7:30 PM
Mon, Nov 28	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 30	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 1	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 4	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 7	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 9	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 10	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 13	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 15	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 17	@ Arizona	9:00 PM
Mon, Dec 19	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 23	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 27	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 29	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 31	@ Boston	1:00 PM
Sun, Jan 1	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 3	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 7	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 10	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 12	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 14	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Mon, Jan 16	vs Florida	1:00 PM
Tue, Jan 17	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Thu, Jan 19	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	vs Anaheim	12:30 PM
Mon, Jan 23	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Tue, Jan 24	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 26	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 28	@ Minnesota	9:00 PM
Wed, Feb 1	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 11	vs Calgary	12:30 PM
Mon, Feb 13	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Wed, Feb 15	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Tue, Feb 21	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 23	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 24	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 26	vs Washington	1:00 PM
Tue, Feb 28	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 2	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 4	vs Philadelphia	12:30 PM
Mon, Mar 6	vs Edmonton	7:30 PM
Tue, Mar 7	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Thu, Mar 9	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	vs NY Rangers	5:00 PM
Mon, Mar 13	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Wed, Mar 15	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 17	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 19	vs Boston	1:00 PM
Tue, Mar 21	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 24	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	@ NY Islanders	5:30 PM
Mon, Mar 27	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 31	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 1	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 4	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 6	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Sat, Apr 8	vs Carolina	12:30 PM
Mon, Apr 10	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 11	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM

CRAIG ANDERSON

JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

CALGARY FLAMES

THN PREDICTION | 2ND IN PACIFIC

ELIAS LINDHOLM

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD	50-21-11 (.677)
OVERTIME	4-9
SHOOTOUT	2-2
OVERALL	6th
OFFENSE	3.55 GPG (6th)
DEFENSE	2.51 GAA (3rd)
POWER PLAY	22.9% (10th)
PENALTY KILL	83.2% (6th)
CORSI FOR/60	63.34 (3rd)
CORSI AGAINST/60	50.61 (3rd)
ICE TIME LEAD (F)	E. Lindholm (19:57)
ICE TIME LEAD (D)	R. Andersson (22:40)

BY STEVE MACFARLANE

THE FLAMES ARE coming off a special season that will be difficult to duplicate. After winning the Pacific Division with 111 points, the team advanced to the second round of the playoffs for just the second time since 2004. Coach Darryl Sutter won the Jack Adams Award, the Flames had finalists for the Selke and Vezina Trophies and linemates Johnny Gaudreau and Matthew Tkachuk both surpassed 100 points. Gaudreau landed fourth in Hart Trophy voting after a career-best 115-point season that included 40 goals – a lamplighting plateau reached by all three players on the Flames' top line.

So what's the problem? Gaudreau fled Calgary for Columbus in free agency, and Tkachuk essentially arranged his own trade to Florida. The good news is the Tkachuk deal brought in Jonathan Huberdeau, who tied with Gaudreau for second in league scoring last year and can fill Gaudreau's spot beside Elias Lindholm. But they're still one 100-point guy short. Calgary will need more scoring by committee after boasting the league's most prolific line last season.

OFFENSE

As a top-heavy offense, the Flames got more than 120 goals from the first line of Gaudreau (40), Lindholm (42) and Tkachuk (42). So losing Gaudreau and Tkachuk would've been even more devastating if not for Huberdeau's addition. Calgary also had career years from the entire defense last season. You can't guarantee that same production, though, even from Rasmus Andersson (50 points) and blueline partner Noah Hanifin (48).

The Flames need more balance up front to ensure success in 2022-23. Left winger Andrew Mangiapane had a breakout 35-goal campaign anchoring a second line with veterans Mikael Backlund and Blake Coleman. That trio had some success late in the season and was arguably the team's best unit in the playoffs. Dillon Dube has yet to live up to expectations. Tyler Toffoli started hot but went cold down the stretch. And no one knows if Sean Monahan can get back to scoring regularly after all his injury troubles.

DEFENSE

The good news is the Tkachuk trade brought in MacKenzie Weegar, who slots in as the No. 1.

Andersson and Hanifin were brilliant offensively but struggled against top competition at times last season,

FAST FACTS

COACH	Darryl Sutter
GM	Brad Treliving
ARENA	Scotiabank Saddledome
CAPACITY	19,289
AHL AFFILIATE	Calgary Wranglers
ECHL AFFILIATE	N/A
PLAYOFF RECORD	11-16 (since 2018)

most notably in the playoffs. They'll need to step up their play in their own end, especially with defensive stalwart Chris Tanev potentially starting the year on the sidelines after surgery for a torn labrum.

The group was also bolstered by the emergence of Oliver Kylington as a second-pairing D-man last year. He struggled without the injured Tanev in the playoffs, but Weegar's presence will help while Tanev recovers. Nikita Zadorov returns to anchor the third pairing. Although Erik Gudbranson went to Columbus as a free agent, there are plenty of options to fill out the Nos. 6, 7 and 8 slots with Connor Mackey, Juuso Valimaki and newcomers Nicolas Meloche and Dennis Gilbert expected to compete.

JACOB
MARKSTROM

ERIC BOLTE-USA TODAY SPORTS

>GOALTENDING

This is one area that shouldn't be questioned. Despite a rough second-round playoff series against Edmonton, Jacob Markstrom is as solid as they come as a starter. He was a Vezina finalist last season with 37 wins, a 2.22 goals-against average and league-leading nine shutouts. Expect a big rebound after the post-season collapse against the Oilers. The Flames should also see more growth from young backup Dan Vladar, who won 13 games in his rookie season.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

Sutter's goal was to rank in the top 10 on both the power play and penalty kill, and the Flames achieved that last year with a 22.9-percent efficiency on the PP (10th) and 83.2 percent on the PK (sixth). Both units face challenges this season with the uncertainty of Tanev's return date and the loss of Tkachuk. Huberdeau is a nice add as a deft playmaker, but Tkachuk was the top triggerman with 12 PP goals, so the Flames will look to Toffoli and Mangiapane to step up and hope Monahan can get healthy again. The PK will miss Gudbranson, as well as any time lost by Tanev. Andersson and Hanifin will have to log more minutes early, and Weegar is a well-rounded defender who will help shut down opponents on the PK .

>INTANGIBLES

There's a real uncertainty about how the team will react in the dressing room after such a tumultuous off-season. There are plenty of leaders remaining – Tanev, Coleman, Milan Lucic and now Huberdeau to name a few – but building on last year's identity after a big shakeup will be an important early development. There's little doubt Sutter, with his 1,397 games of coaching experience, will do his thing to keep the players focused and prepared.

>ROOKIES

With Gaudreau and Tkachuk gone, this might finally be the season that a surprise skilled rookie makes the team out of camp. Although Sutter likes young players to spend a lot of development time in the AHL, the proximity of the farm team moving to Calgary means people should keep an eye on youngsters such as Matthew Phillips and Jakob Pelletier up front.

CUP ODDS

18/1

>X-FACTOR

If the Flames are going to compete for the Pacific title again, they'll need another huge year from Markstrom, who won't get the same goal support he received last season. The team in front of him will have to be dedicated to playing Sutter-style hockey.

>THE BRASS

GM Brad Treviling can expect a lot of scrutiny on any moves he makes given the result of the Gaudreau gamble and Tkachuk drama. He's going to face some difficult decisions if the team is competitive at the trade deadline but Weegar, who is a pending UFA, hasn't been extended. The Flames GM is as motivated as his players are right now. **H**

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Jonathan Huberdeau	**1.** Elias Lindholm	**1.** Tyler Toffoli
2. Andrew Mangiapane	**2.** Mikael Backlund	**2.** Blake Coleman
3. Dillon Dube	**3.** Sean Monahan	**3.** Matthew Phillips
4. Milan Lucic	**4.** Kevin Rooney	**4.** Trevor Lewis
5. Jakob Pelletier	**5.** Adam Ruzicka	**5.** Walker Duehr

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. MacKenzie Weegar	**6.** Nikita Zadorov	**1.** Jacob Markstrom
2. Rasmus Andersson	**7.** Juuso Valimaki	**2.** Dan Vladar
3. Noah Hanifin	**8.** Connor Mackey	**3.** Dustin Wolf
4. Chris Tanev ✚	**9.** Nicolas Meloche	✚ INJURED
5. Oliver Kylington	**10.** Dennis Gilbert	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Johnny Gaudreau, LW; Matthew Tkachuk, LW; Erik Gudbranson, D; Calle Jarnkrok, RW; Ryan Carpenter, C; Brett Ritchie, RW

MATTHEW
CORONATO

FUTURE WATCH

WITH JUST THREE SELECTIONS and no first-rounder, the Flames were quiet at the 2022 draft. Second-rounder Topi Ronni is a two-way center. Luckily for Flames fans, the previous two draft classes featured eight picks each, and Matthew Coronato, a first-rounder in 2021, had a great freshman year at Harvard. The Flames have a goalie of the future in crafty Dustin Wolf and a spark-plug winger in Jakob Pelletier, both of whom shone as AHL rookies.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Matthew Coronato, RW
Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Harvard (ECAC)
Elite scorer with skating to match. The 2020-21 USHL top forward excelled as NCAA rookie.
Acquired 13th overall, 2021 **NHL** '23-24

2. Jakob Pelletier, LW
Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Stockton (AHL)
Showed scoring touch in phenomenal pro rookie year. Average skater but feisty.
Acquired 26th overall, 2019 **NHL** '22-23

3. Dustin Wolf, G
Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Stockton (AHL)
Size no concern for mobile netminder. All-rookie, all-star and AHL's top stopper in 2021-22.
Acquired 214th overall, 2019 **NHL** '24-25

4. Connor Zary, C
Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Stockton (AHL)
Heavy, accurate shot is calling card but skating needs work. Former captain leads by example.
Acquired 24th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

5. Adam Ruzicka, C
Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Stockton (AHL)
Has the size and skill to be an NHL middle-six pivot. But pace and intensity are lacking.
Acquired 109th overall, 2017 **NHL** '22-23

6. Martin Pospisil, LW
Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Stockton (AHL)
Minor AHL breakout after modest outputs in past. Abrasive and a pain to play against.
Acquired 105th overall, 2018 **NHL** '23-24

7. Jeremie Poirier, D
Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Saint John (QMJHL)
Mix of mobility, distribution and shot screams power-play QB. Shoring up 'D' game next goal.
Acquired 72nd overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

8. Yan Kuznetsov, D
Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Saint John (QMJHL)
Physically dominant, rangy and sound. Has played in USHL, NCAA, QMJHL and AHL.
Acquired 50th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

9. Connor Mackey, D
Age 26 **2021-22 Team** Stockton (AHL)
Undrafted late-bloomer has grown tremendously in a short space. Ready to step in now.
Acquired Free agent, March 2020 **NHL** '22-23

10. Rory Kerins, C
Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)
Rebounded from lost OHL season (just four games in AHL) with a 118-point campaign.
Acquired 174th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Daniil Chechelev	21	Kansas City (ECHL)	30	12	12	5	3.64	.894
Oscar Dansk	28	Spartak Moscow (KHL)	17	6	6	1	2.66	.910
Jacob Markstrom	32	Calgary	63	37	15	9	2.22	.922
Arsenii Sergeev	19	Tri-City (USHL)	41	30	6	2	2.08	.918
Dan Vladar	25	Calgary	23	13	6	2	2.75	.906
Dustin Wolf	21	Stockton (AHL)	47	33	9	5	2.35	.924

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Rasmus Andersson	25	Calgary	82	4	46	50	28
Jake Boltmann	20	Notre Dame (Big10)	40	1	12	13	28
Nick DiSimone	27	Stockton (AHL)	68	4	21	25	28
Dennis Gilbert	25	Colorado (AHL)	52	6	17	23	41
Noah Hanifin	25	Calgary	81	10	38	48	19
Cole Jordan	19	Moose Jaw (WHL)	36	2	9	11	40
Yan Kuznetsov	20	Saint John (QMJHL)	25	2	11	13	14
Oliver Kylington	25	Calgary	73	9	22	31	14
Carl-Johan Lerby	25	Malmo (Swe)	51	3	6	9	24
Connor Mackey	26	Stockton (AHL)	53	5	31	36	83
Nicolas Meloche	25	San Jose	50	2	5	7	39
Jeremie Poirier	20	Saint John (QMJHL)	67	16	41	57	38
Colton Poolman	26	Stockton (AHL)	62	0	13	13	16
Rushan Rafikov	27	Yaroslavl (KHL)	47	7	9	16	8
Ilya Solovyov	22	Stockton (AHL)	51	3	5	8	24
Christopher Tanev	32	Calgary	82	6	22	28	22
Juuso Valimaki	23	Stockton (AHL)	35	2	16	18	26
MacKenzie Weegar	28	Florida	80	8	36	44	81
Cameron Whynot	19	Halifax (QMJHL)	45	4	13	17	48
Alexander Yelesin	26	Yaroslavl (KHL)	40	1	3	4	27
Nikita Zadorov	27	Calgary	74	4	18	22	77

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Mikael Backlund	33	Calgary	82	12	27	39	30
Jack Beck	19	Ottawa (OHL)	36	22	22	44	14
Parker Bell	19	Tri-City (WHL)	64	18	31	49	33
Clark Bishop	26	Belleville (AHL)	35	6	6	12	36
Lucas Ciona	19	Seattle (WHL)	53	17	18	35	77
Blake Coleman	29	Calgary	81	16	17	33	60
Matthew Coronato	19	Harvard (ECAC)	34	18	18	36	14
Dillon Dube	24	Calgary	79	18	14	32	20
Walker Duehr	24	Stockton (AHL)	59	11	12	23	28
Mathias Emilio Pettersen	22	Stockton (AHL)	59	13	13	26	20
Lucas Feuk	21	Nyb/Vas (Swe3)	32	11	16	27	28
Jonathan Huberdeau	29	Florida	80	30	85	115	54
Cole Huckins	19	Acadie-Bath. (QMJHL)	41	12	14	26	61
Benjamin Jones	23	Henderson (AHL)	66	25	16	41	74
Pavel Karnaukhov	25	CKSA Moscow (KHL)	37	7	6	13	18
Rory Kerins	20	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	67	43	75	118	49
Adam Klapka	22	Liberec (Cze)	44	6	12	18	72
Demetrios Koumontzis	22	Arizona St. (NCAA)	23	4	7	11	18
Trevor Lewis	35	Calgary	80	6	10	16	12
Elias Lindholm	27	Calgary	82	42	40	82	22
Cade Littler	18	Wenatchee (BCHL)	50	20	25	45	32
Milan Lucic	34	Calgary	82	10	11	21	84
Andrew Mangiapane	26	Calgary	82	35	20	55	38
Mitchell Matson	24	Michigan St. (Big10)	23	1	2	3	16
Ilya Nikolayev	21	Tri-City (USHL)	58	23	49	72	83
Sean Monahan	27	Calgary	65	8	15	23	24
Josh Nodler	21	Michigan St. (Big10)	36	7	8	15	4
Jakob Pelletier	21	Stockton (AHL)	66	27	35	62	22
Matthew Phillips	24	Stockton (AHL)	65	31	37	68	16
Martin Pospisil	22	Stockton (AHL)	47	7	18	25	95
Topi Ronni	18	Tappara (Fin Jr.)	30	11	18	29	53
Kevin Rooney	29	NY Rangers	61	6	6	12	18
Adam Ruzicka	32	Calgary	28	5	5	10	8
Cole Schwindt	21	Charlotte (AHL)	72	19	21	40	21
William Stromgren	19	Rogle (Swe Jr.)	44	13	23	36	18
Tyler Toffoli	30	Mtl/Cgy	74	20	29	49	14
Eetu Tuulola	24	Stockton (AHL)	61	14	11	25	50
Connor Zary	21	Stockton (AHL)	53	13	12	25	36

CORONATO: PHOTO BY CHICAGO STEEL

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																			2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	P/GP	EVG	EVP	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	OTG	GWG	S	S%	TOI/GP	FOW%	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM
Johnny Gaudreau	82	40	75	115	64	26	1.40	34	90	6	25	0	0	2	9	262	15.3	18:34	100	12	3	11	14	-3	2
Matthew Tkachuk	82	42	62	104	57	68	1.27	30	75	12	29	0	0	0	6	253	16.6	17:54	46.5	12	4	6	10	-6	20
Elias Lindholm	82	42	40	82	61	22	1.00	31	61	10	19	1	2	2	9	235	17.9	19:57	52.9	12	5	4	9	-7	6
Andrew Mangiapane	82	35	20	55	20	38	0.67	25	41	8	11	2	3	0	8	185	18.9	15:44	38.2	12	3	3	6	4	10
Rasmus Andersson	82	4	46	50	30	28	0.61	2	30	2	19	0	1	0	1	152	2.6	22:40	--	12	3	3	6	-10	23
Noah Hanifin	81	10	38	48	27	19	0.59	9	34	1	13	0	1	0	1	189	5.3	21:18	--	12	0	3	3	-11	4
Mikael Backlund	82	12	27	39	16	30	0.48	12	32	0	7	0	0	0	1	214	5.6	17:07	50.5	12	5	3	8	6	8
Blake Coleman	81	16	17	33	16	60	0.41	15	31	0	0	1	2	0	2	212	7.6	14:49	10.5	12	2	3	5	5	12
Dillon Dube	79	18	14	32	1	20	0.41	15	26	2	3	1	3	0	1	143	12.6	12:50	47.4	12	0	1	1	-2	2
Oliver Kylington	73	9	22	31	34	14	0.42	8	28	1	3	0	0	0	2	138	6.5	18:10	--	12	1	2	3	5	8
Christopher Tanev	82	6	22	28	35	22	0.34	6	28	0	0	0	0	0	3	88	6.8	20:28	--	8	0	1	1	3	2
Tyler Toffoli	37	11	12	23	3	10	0.62	6	13	4	8	1	2	0	1	95	11.6	15:05	61.9	12	2	3	5	-6	6
Sean Monahan	65	8	15	23	-15	24	0.35	3	10	5	13	0	0	0	2	111	7.2	14:04	53.2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nikita Zadorov	74	4	18	22	11	77	0.30	4	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	106	3.8	16:55	--	12	0	3	3	2	24
Milan Lucic	82	10	11	21	-9	84	0.26	8	18	2	3	0	0	0	0	95	10.5	12:15	55.9	12	0	1	1	-3	33
Erik Gudbranson	78	6	11	17	15	68	0.22	6	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	129	4.7	18:08	--	12	0	1	1	-1	0
Trevor Lewis	80	6	10	16	-1	12	0.20	5	14	0	1	1	1	0	1	108	5.6	12:50	42.3	12	2	3	5	-1	14
Adam Ruzicka	28	5	5	10	8	8	0.36	5	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	15.2	10:13	46.2						
Michael Stone	11	2	4	6	3	4	0.55	1	4	1	2	0	0	0	1	24	8.3	17:27	--	9	2	3	5	6	4
Brett Ritchie	41	3	1	4	-6	29	0.10	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	5.5	9:43	25.0	7	2	0	2	-1	4
Brad Richardson	27	2	2	4	-2	27	0.15	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	10.5	9:56	58.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Calle Jarnkrok	17	0	4	4	1	4	0.24	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	19	0.0	13:50	53.4	12	1	3	4	-1	0
Tyler Pitlick	25	0	2	2	-5	2	0.08	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0.0	11:41	25.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Juuso Valimaki	9	0	2	2	0	10	0.22	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0.0	15:42	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ryan Carpenter	8	0	1	1	-1	0	0.13	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.0	11:14	47.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Connor Mackey	3	0	1	1	-1	2	0.33	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.0	13:35	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Glenn Gawdin	2	0	0	0	0	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0	9:15	27.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Walker Duehr	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	8:47	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	GP	GS	W	L	OT	SA	SVS	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO	G	A	P	PIM	GP	GS	W	L	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO
Jacob Markstrom	63	63	37	15	9	1,754	1,617	137	.922	2.22	3695:50	9	10	12	12	5	7	354	319	35	0.901	2.95	712:27	1	0
Dan Vladar	23	19	13	6	2	608	551	57	.906	2.75	1243:08	2	0	1	0	0	0	7	7	0	1	0.00	19:56	0	0

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Thu, Oct 13	vs Colorado	9:30 PM
Sat, Oct 15	@ Edmonton	10:00 PM
Tue, Oct 18	vs Vegas	9:00 PM
Thu, Oct 20	vs Buffalo	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	vs Carolina	10:00 PM
Tue, Oct 25	vs Pittsburgh	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 29	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	vs Seattle	9:00 PM
Thu, Nov 3	vs Nashville	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 5	vs New Jersey	10:00 PM
Mon, Nov 7	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 8	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 10	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 12	vs Winnipeg	10:00 PM
Mon, Nov 14	vs Los Angeles	8:30 PM
Thu, Nov 17	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	@ Florida	4:00 PM
Mon, Nov 21	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 23	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 25	@ Washington	2:00 PM
Sat, Nov 26	@ Carolina	4:00 PM
Tue, Nov 29	vs Florida	9:00 PM
Thu, Dec 1	vs Montreal	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 3	vs Washington	10:00 PM
Mon, Dec 5	vs Arizona	9:00 PM
Wed, Dec 7	vs Minnesota	8:00 PM
Fri, Dec 9	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 10	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 12	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 14	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 16	vs St. Louis	9:00 PM
Sun, Dec 18	@ San Jose	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 20	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Thu, Dec 22	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Fri, Dec 23	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 27	vs Edmonton	9:00 PM
Wed, Dec 28	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 31	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 3	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Fri, Jan 6	vs NY Islanders	9:00 PM
Sun, Jan 8	@ Chicago	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 10	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 12	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 14	@ Dallas	2:00 PM
Mon, Jan 16	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Wed, Jan 18	vs Colorado	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	vs Tampa Bay	3:00 PM
Mon, Jan 23	vs Columbus	9:30 PM
Thu, Jan 26	vs Chicago	9:00 PM
Fri, Jan 27	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Mon, Feb 6	@ NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Thu, Feb 9	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Sat, Feb 11	@ Buffalo	12:30 PM
Mon, Feb 13	@ Ottawa	7:30 PM
Thu, Feb 16	vs Detroit	9:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	vs NY Rangers	10:00 PM
Mon, Feb 20	vs Philadelphia	4:00 PM
Wed, Feb 22	@ Arizona	10:00 PM
Thu, Feb 23	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 25	@ Colorado	10:00 PM
Tue, Feb 28	vs Boston	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 2	vs Toronto	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 4	vs Minnesota	10:00 PM
Mon, Mar 6	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Tue, Mar 7	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Fri, Mar 10	vs Anaheim	9:00 PM
Sun, Mar 12	vs Ottawa	9:00 PM
Tue, Mar 14	@ Arizona	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 16	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 18	vs Dallas	10:00 PM
Mon, Mar 20	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Tue, Mar 21	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 23	vs Vegas	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	vs San Jose	4:00 PM
Tue, Mar 28	vs Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Fri, Mar 31	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sun, Apr 2	vs Anaheim	8:00 PM
Tue, Apr 4	vs Chicago	9:00 PM
Wed, Apr 5	@ Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Sat, Apr 8	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Mon, Apr 10	vs Nashville	9:30 PM
Wed, Apr 12	vs San Jose	10:00 PM

MIKAEL **BACKLUND**

ERIC BOLTE-USA TODAY SPORTS

CAROLINA

HURICANES

THN PREDICTION | 1ST IN METROPOLITAN

FREDERIK ANDERSEN

DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY LUKE DECOCK

A BREAKTHROUGH regular season was followed by playoff disappointment as Carolina took a step backward for the first time in four years under coach Rod Brind'Amour. What had been a steady progression came to a halt with a Game 7 loss at home to the New York Rangers in the second round. Carolina had previously gone 7-0 at home and 0-6 on the road in the 2022 post-season.

The question they have to ask now is whether their sudden scoring drought was bad luck at the wrong time or a sign of a deeper structural problem. More concerning was the lack of playoff production from young stars such as Sebastian Aho and Andrei Svechnikov. Just a blip on their ascension or a sign that they've reached their ceilings earlier than the Hurricanes hoped?

In an effort to address those weaknesses, the Hurricanes brought in proven veterans Brent Burns and Max Pacioretty on the cheap to replace the departed Vincent Trocheck, Tony DeAngelo and Nino Niederreiter, upgrading around a strong core of Aho, Svechnikov, Jaccob Slavin and Brett Pesce.

>OFFENSE

The Canes play a hard-charging, fast-moving style that emphasizes free-wheeling blueliners and pressure on the opposing 'D,' a strategy not as novel in today's NHL as it was in the fall of 2018. What they lack in quality – without a true superstar at forward – they make up for in quantity.

Aho scored 37 goals and Svechnikov had 30 in 2021-22. Behind them, there's a nice mix of complementary forwards such as the slick-passing Teuvo Teravainen and veteran shutdown pivot Jordan Staal. Seth Jarvis was a revelation as a rookie, with more now expected. Pacio-

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD
54-20-8 (.707)

OVERTIME
6-6

SHOOTOUT
1-2

OVERALL
3rd

OFFENSE
3.38 GPG (9th)

DEFENSE
2.44 GAA (1st)

POWER PLAY
22.0% (13th)

PENALTY KILL
88.0% (1st)

CORSI FOR/60
63.41 (2nd)

CORSI AGAINST/60
49.37 (1st)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
S. Aho (18:57)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
J. Slavin (23:32)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Rod Brind'Amour

GM
Don Waddell

ARENA
PNC Arena

CAPACITY
18,680

AHL AFFILIATE
Chicago Wolves

ECHL AFFILIATE
Norfolk Admirals

PLAYOFF RECORD
24-24 (since 2018)

SEBASTIAN **AHO**

ERIC BOLTE-USA TODAY SPORTS

retty, who's scheduled to return in February following Achilles surgery, should finish more of the chances the Hurricanes create.

The Hurricanes need Jesperi Kotkaniemi to take a big step up to help fill Trocheck's void at center, but the arrival of rookie Jack Drury offers more balance down the middle. Ondrej Kase is an interesting wild card if his injury issues are behind him. Martin Necas remains an enigma after a disappointing contract year.

>DEFENSE

Slavin continues to be as versatile as he is underrated. He's a wizard with his stick who plays lockdown defense with precise positioning and has sneaky puck skills. Pesce and Brady Skjei are not only defensively sound but can log heavy minutes against the opposition's best players.

Burns joins that trio and, even at 37, has a lot left to offer. Whatever defensive shortcomings he may have can be papered over by Slavin, allowing Burns to be at his attacking best. With San Jose retaining salary, Burns is a relative bargain for the Hurricanes.

Ethan Bear got off to a great start but never seemed to recover from a mid-season bout with COVID-19. Dylan Coghlan and Jalen Chatfield offer depth on the right side. Jake Gardiner spent last season on injured reserve after hip and back surgeries but has been deemed ready to play.

>GOALTENDING

Frederik Andersen was one of the NHL's most consistent and reliable goaltenders during the regular season, but he missed the post-season with a knee injury. Antti Raanta played well as Andersen's deputy before faltering at the end. There's a yin and yang between the dependable Andersen and then Raanta, who's perhaps more talented, but is also more erratic and fragile.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

The Hurricanes' power play and elite penalty kill let them down in the playoffs. Burns and Pacioretty should help with the former, adding more skill to go along with Aho, Svechnikov, Teravainen and Jarvis. On the penalty kill, Aho and Teravainen are as dangerous offensively as they are defensively, while Carolina's depth on the blueline is a huge asset – Slavin and Pesce in particular.

>INTANGIBLES

Staal has been captain since Justin Williams' retirement, but this is the last year of his deal, and there's no guarantee he'll be back. Aho has been groomed to take over, but a dressing room full of strong, silent types clearly needs more vocal leaders. Jordan Martinook is one, but there's only so much influence a fourth-liner can wield.

>ROOKIES

No one saw Jarvis coming so soon, but it's easy to spot Drury. He'll slot right into the lineup at center after winning a Calder Cup with AHL Chicago. Pyotr Kochetkov saw NHL playoff action, while Chatfield earned a look on the blueline in 16 regular-season games.

>X-FACTOR

Was the offensive drought in the playoffs a sign of weakness against a higher degree of competition or just bad luck in a small sample size? Put another way: can the Hurricanes win with this core over the next few years or do they need to regroup?

>THE BRASS

Brind'Amour took some heat for the Hurricanes' special-teams woes in the post-season, but there's no doubt he has instilled a culture of success in a franchise that had meandered for years. Brind'Amour has a voice in personnel moves along with GM Don Waddell and hands-on owner Tom Dundon. H

CUP ODDS

9/1

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Andrei Svechnikov	1. Sebastian Aho	1. Teuvo Teravainen
2. Max Pacioretty ✚	2. Jesperi Kotkaniemi	2. Seth Jarvis
3. Jordan Martinook	3. Jordan Staal	3. Martin Necas
4. Stefan Noesen	4. Jack Drury	4. Jesper Fast
5. Ryan Dzingel	5. Ryan Suzuki	5. Ondrej Kase

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Jaccob Slavin	6. Jake Gardiner	1. Frederik Andersen
2. Brent Burns	7. Dylan Coghlan	2. Antti Raanta
3. Brett Pesce	8. Jalen Chatfield	3. Pyotr Kochetkov
4. Brady Skjei	9. William Lagesson	✚ INJURED
5. Ethan Bear	10. Maxime Lajoie	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Vincent Trocheck, C; Nino Niederreiter, RW; Tony DeAngelo, D; Derek Stepan, C; Ian Cole, D; Brendan Smith, D; Max Domi, LW; Josh Leivo, LW; Steven Lorentz, LW

SCOTT MORROW

FUTURE WATCH

IN A YEAR WHEN many questioned how severe the 'Russian Factor' would be at the draft, the Canes went whole-hog, grabbing four of their seven picks from the pariah state. At the top end, Gleb Trikozov and Alexander Perevalov bring skill up front, while later on, Carolina grabbed a mobile defenseman in Vladimir Grudinin. With Carolina in win-now mode, it doesn't have much room for kids, but prospects such as Scott Morrow will help down the road.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Scott Morrow, D

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** UMass (HE)
Dynamic two-way defender. Eased concerns about own-zone defending with NCAA display.
Acquired 40th overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

2. Jack Drury, C

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Chicago (AHL)
Unique path through Sweden paid dividends in impressive AHL year. Future captain material.
Acquired 42nd overall, 2018 **NHL** '22-23

3. Ville Koivunen, LW

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Karpat (Fin.)
Needs to add strength, but two-way and offensive game are there. Shone as a rookie pro.
Acquired 51st overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

4. Gleb Trikozov, LW

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Omsk Jr. (Rus.)
Thinks offense all the time. Two-way game still a work in progress. Ready for KHL test.
Acquired 60th overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

5. Ryan Suzuki, C

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Chicago (AHL)
Slightly improved output in second AHL season. Unfortunate injuries have slowed development.
Acquired 28th overall, 2019 **NHL** '23-24

6. Noel Gunler, RW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Brynas (Swe.)
Swede is all finish and has a booming, big-league shot. Move to AHL an important test.
Acquired 41st overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

7. Alexander Perevalov, LW

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Loko Yaroslavl Jr. (Rus.)
Never lacks willingness to get to dirty areas to create offense. Saw KHL action last season.
Acquired 71st overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

8. Vasiliy Ponomarev, C

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Voskresensk (Rus.2)
Leaves nothing in the tank and fights for every puck. Impressed in brief stint in minors.
Acquired 53rd overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

9. Aleksi Heimosalmi, D

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Assat (Fin.)
Mobile D-man reaches top speed quickly and distributes well. Big minutes in Finnish League.
Acquired 44th overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

10. Pyotr Kochetkov, G

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Chicago (AHL)
Athletic netminder not afraid to challenge shooters. Injuries led to NHL playoff minutes.
Acquired 36th overall, 2019 **NHL** '24-25

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Frederik Andersen	33	Carolina	52	35	14	3	2.17	.922
Patrik Hamrla	19	Rimouski (QMJHL)	40	17	15	4	2.94	.885
Pyotr Kochetkov	23	Chicago (AHL)	15	13	1	2	2.09	.921
Jacob Kucharski	23	American Int. (AH)	22	12	7	3	2.38	.910
Yegor Naumov	19	Loko Yaroslavl (Rus Jr.)	DID NOT PLAY					
Nikita Quapp	19	Krefeld (Ger)	11	3	6	0	4.04	.875
Antti Raanta	33	Carolina	28	15	5	4	2.45	.912
Zach Sawchenko	24	San Jose (AHL)	14	4	10	0	4.03	.877
Jakub Vondras	18	Plzen (Cze Jr.)	11	6	3	0	2.13	.915
Dylan Wells	24	Norfolk (ECHL)	43	18	21	2	3.59	.895

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Ethan Bear	25	Carolina	58	5	9	14	20
Brent Burns	37	San Jose	82	10	44	54	42
Jalen Chatfield	26	Chicago (AHL)	44	6	12	18	33
Dylan Coghlan	24	Vegas	59	3	10	13	18
Dominick Fensore	21	Boston Univ. (HE)	35	5	26	31	8
Cavan Fitzgerald	26	Chicago (AHL)	53	3	7	10	14
Simon Forsmark	18	Orebro (Swe)	41	0	3	3	2
Jake Gardiner	32	Carolina	INJURED - DID NOT PLAY				
Vladimir Grundinin	18	K.A. Moscow (Rus Jr.)	18	2	11	13	0
Aleksi Heimosalmi	19	Assat (Fin)	47	0	3	3	24
Anttoni Honka	21	JYP (Fin)	57	6	31	37	22
Tyler Inamoto	23	Wisconsin (Big10)	26	0	2	2	26
Oliwer Kaski	27	Omsk (KHL)	47	13	20	33	12
Joey Keane	23	Chicago (AHL)	62	7	26	33	81
William Lagesson	26	Edm/Mtl	33	0	5	5	9
Maxime Lajoie	24	Chicago (AHL)	60	4	29	33	10
Bryce Montgomery	19	London (OHL)	49	1	4	5	59
Scott Morrow	19	UMass (HE)	37	13	20	33	10
Alexander Nikishin	20	Spartak Moscow (KHL)	46	8	4	12	39
Joel Nystrom	20	Farjestad (Swe)	46	5	11	16	4
Alexander Pelevin	18	Novogard (Rus Jr.)	29	3	5	8	61
Brett Pesce	27	Carolina	70	7	21	28	39
Tarmo Ruenanan	24	Hfd/Chi (AHL)	48	3	17	20	14
Ronan Seeley	20	Everett (WHL)	52	11	33	44	14
Jesper Sellgren	24	Chicago (AHL)	73	6	20	26	22
Brady Skjei	28	Carolina	82	9	30	39	48
Jacob Slavin	28	Carolina	79	4	38	42	10

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Sebastian Aho	25	Carolina	79	37	44	81	38
Jackson Blake	19	Chicago (USHL)	61	27	50	77	16
Dominik Bokk	22	Chicago (AHL)	32	3	7	10	8
Jack Drury	22	Chicago (AHL)	68	20	32	52	61
Ryan Dzingel	30	Ari/SJ	32	5	3	8	35
Jesper Fast	30	Carolina	82	14	20	34	4
Noel Gunler	20	Brynas (Swe)	52	13	10	23	36
Nikita Guslistov	20	Cherepovets (KHL)	34	6	7	13	2
Seth Jarvis	20	Carolina	68	17	23	40	18
Ondrej Kase	26	Toronto	50	14	13	27	14
Ville Koivunen	19	Karpat (Fin)	53	11	18	29	20
Jesperi Kotkaniemi	22	Carolina	66	12	17	29	37
Cruz Lucius	18	USA U18 (NTDP)	33	14	11	25	31
Mackenzie MacEachern	28	Springfield (AHL)	47	12	13	25	51
Jordan Martinook	30	Carolina	59	6	9	15	22
Stelio Mattheos	23	Chicago (AHL)	59	2	8	10	44
Lucas Mercuri	20	UMass (HE)	36	6	9	15	18
Blake Murray	21	Norfolk (AHL)	64	14	21	35	26
Martin Necas	23	Carolina	78	14	26	40	32
Stefan Noesen	29	Chicago (AHL)	70	48	37	85	112
Zion Nybeck	20	HV71 (Swe2)	22	3	8	11	2
Robert Orr	19	Halifax (QMJHL)	63	21	23	44	18
Max Pacioretty	33	Vegas	39	19	18	37	33
Alexander Pashin	20	Neftekamsk (Rus2)	34	17	13	30	10
Lane Pederson	25	San Jose	29	0	2	2	10
Alexander Perevalov	18	Loko Yaroslavl (Rus Jr.)	42	25	25	50	32
Vasiliy Ponomarev	20	Voskresensk (Rus2)	21	7	6	13	8
Patrik Puistola	21	JYP/Jok (Fin)	56	16	8	24	6
Jamieson Rees	21	Chicago (AHL)	61	7	17	24	35
Massimo Rizzo	21	Denver (NCHC)	39	12	24	36	48
Justin Robidas	19	Val-d'Or (QMJHL)	68	30	52	82	12
Andrei Schevnikov	22	Carolina	78	30	39	69	79
Kirill Slepets	23	Karpat (Fin)	15	1	3	4	2
Jordan Staal	34	Carolina	78	17	19	36	18
Malte Stromwall	28	Minsk (KHL)	38	19	13	32	16
Ryan Suzuki	21	Chicago (AHL)	34	7	7	14	20
Teuvo Teravainen	28	Carolina	77	22	43	65	24
Tuuka Tieksola	21	Karpat (Fin)	28	4	3	7	12
Gleb Trikozov	18	Omsk (Rus Jr.)	35	23	22	45	22
Kevin Wall	22	Penn St. (Big10)	38	16	13	29	32

MORROW: THOMAS KENDALL/UMASS ATHLETICS

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																			2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**	**P/GP**	**EVG**	**EVP**	**PPG**	**PPP**	**SHG**	**SHP**	**OTG**	**GWG**	**S**	**S%**	**TOI/GP**	**FOW%**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**
Sebastian Aho	79	37	44	81	18	38	1.03	23	50	13	28	1	3	2	9	221	16.7	18:57	52.4	14	4	7	11	0	12
Andrei Svechnikov	78	30	39	69	19	79	0.88	21	47	9	22	0	0	1	5	249	12.1	17:16	0.0	14	4	1	5	-1	14
Teuvo Teravainen	77	22	43	65	22	24	0.84	11	31	9	31	2	3	0	2	202	10.9	17:42	54.6	14	4	7	11	4	2
Vincent Trocheck	81	21	30	51	21	78	0.63	15	39	6	12	0	0	0	3	168	12.5	17:52	54.6	14	6	4	10	7	10
Tony DeAngelo	64	10	41	51	30	56	0.80	8	31	2	20	0	0	0	2	151	6.6	19:49	--	14	1	9	10	0	12
Nino Niederreiter	75	24	20	44	29	34	0.59	20	39	4	5	0	0	0	5	144	16.7	14:50	48.7	14	4	1	5	-5	10
Jaccob Slavin	79	4	38	42	35	10	0.53	3	33	1	7	0	2	0	0	165	2.4	23:32	--	14	2	6	8	6	6
Seth Jarvis	68	17	23	40	11	18	0.59	15	34	2	6	0	0	1	4	110	15.5	13:53	44.0	14	3	5	8	-1	4
Martin Necas	78	14	26	40	5	32	0.51	11	35	2	4	1	1	1	6	159	8.8	16:11	44.7	14	0	5	5	0	0
Brady Skjei	82	9	30	39	22	48	0.48	9	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	184	4.9	21:09	--	14	1	2	3	-1	8
Jordan Staal	78	17	19	36	11	18	0.46	16	34	1	2	0	0	0	2	146	11.6	16:38	57.3	14	1	5	6	0	2
Jesper Fast	82	14	20	34	24	4	0.41	13	31	1	2	0	1	0	1	97	14.4	14:49	41.4	14	1	0	1	-2	0
Jesperi Kotkaniemi	66	12	17	29	3	37	0.44	12	25	0	4	0	0	0	3	81	14.8	12:01	51.2	14	0	2	2	-4	2
Brett Pesce	70	7	21	28	5	39	0.40	6	25	1	3	0	0	1	3	148	4.7	21:42	--	14	1	2	3	0	6
Derek Stepan	58	9	10	19	0	14	0.33	9	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	96	9.4	10:48	55.9	3	0	0	0	-2	0
Ian Cole	75	2	17	19	15	83	0.25	2	18	0	0	0	1	0	1	77	2.6	17:09	--	14	1	1	2	2	10
Jordan Martinook	59	6	9	15	1	22	0.25	6	15	0	0	0	0	0	2	77	7.8	11:12	45.1	6	0	1	1	0	4
Ethan Bear	58	5	9	14	1	20	0.24	5	13	0	1	0	0	0	2	97	5.2	16:05	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Steven Lorentz	67	8	5	13	0	8	0.19	8	13	0	0	0	0	0	1	80	10.0	10:53	45.5	5	0	0	0	0	17
Brendan Smith	45	4	4	8	6	36	0.18	4	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	63	6.4	13:55	--	14	1	3	4	0	12
Max Domi	19	2	5	7	8	18	0.37	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	27	7.4	11:59	44.4	14	3	3	6	6	4
Josh Leivo	7	1	2	3	1	2	0.43	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10.0	9:14	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jalen Chatfield	16	0	3	3	1	8	0.19	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0.0	14:47	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jack Drury	2	2	0	2	3	2	1.00	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	33.3	15:58	80.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Andrew Poturalski	2	0	2	2	-1	0	1.00	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	0.0	10:09	42.9	--	--	--	--	--	--
Stefan Noesen	2	0	0	0	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.0	14:20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Maxime Lajoie	5	0	0	0	2	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.0	12:32	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
C.J. Smith	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	9:22	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Joey Keane	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	13:38	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																2022 PLAYOFFS							
PLAYER	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**SA**	**SVS**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**
Frederik Andersen	52	51	35	14	3	1,431	1,320	111	.922	2.17	3070:53	4	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Antti Raanta	28	26	15	5	4	706	644	62	.912	2.45	1516:38	2	0	13	13	6	5	322	297	25	.922	2.26	663:25	1	0
Pyotr Kochetkov	3	2	3	0	0	61	55	6	.902	2.42	148:36	0	0	4	1	1	2	84	73	11	.869	3.89	169:34	0	2
Alex Lyon	2	2	1	0	1	65	59	6	.908	2.93	122:49	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jack LaFontaine	2	1	0	1	0	41	32	9	.780	7.20	74:57	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Wed, Oct 12	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Fri, Oct 14	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Mon, Oct 17	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Thu, Oct 20	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	@ Calgary	10:00 PM
Mon, Oct 24	@ Vancouver	10:30 PM
Fri, Oct 28	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 29	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 31	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 3	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 4	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 6	vs Toronto	5:00 PM
Wed, Nov 9	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 10	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 12	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Mon, Nov 14	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Thu, Nov 17	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Mon, Nov 21	@ Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Wed, Nov 23	vs Arizona	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 25	@ Boston	1:00 PM
Sat, Nov 26	vs Calgary	4:00 PM
Tue, Nov 29	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 1	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 3	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Tue, Dec 6	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 10	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Tue, Dec 13	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Thu, Dec 15	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 17	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 18	vs Pittsburgh	5:00 PM
Tue, Dec 20	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 22	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 23	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 27	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 30	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 1	@ New Jersey	3:00 PM
Tue, Jan 3	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 5	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 7	@ Columbus	4:00 PM
Tue, Jan 10	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 12	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 14	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 15	vs Vancouver	5:00 PM
Thu, Jan 19	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Wed, Jan 25	@ Dallas	9:30 PM
Fri, Jan 27	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 29	vs Boston	5:00 PM
Tue, Jan 31	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Wed, Feb 1	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 11	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 14	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 16	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	vs Washington	8:00 PM
Tue, Feb 21	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 24	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 25	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 1	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Fri, Mar 3	@ Arizona	9:30 PM
Sun, Mar 5	vs Tampa Bay	3:00 PM
Tue, Mar 7	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 9	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 12	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 14	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 17	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 18	@ Philadelphia	5:00 PM
Tue, Mar 21	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 23	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 26	vs Boston	5:00 PM
Tue, Mar 28	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 30	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Sat, Apr 1	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 2	vs NY Islanders	6:00 PM
Tue, Apr 4	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 6	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Apr 8	@ Buffalo	12:30 PM
Mon, Apr 10	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 11	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	@ Florida	7:00 PM

ANDREI SVECHNIKOV

DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS

THN PREDICTION | 7TH IN CENTRAL

PATRICK KANE

NICK TURCHIARO-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY MATT CARLSON

THE BLACKHAWKS are undergoing a gut rehab from the front office to the fourth line. The "interim" was removed from GM Kyle Davidson's job title late last season. Luke Richardson will start fresh as a first-time NHL head coach. The roster has been ripped apart, with a patchwork of veterans and journeymen in place to help prospects progress. Future Hall of Famers Patrick Kane and Jonathan Toews enter the final year of their contracts with no-move clauses, but Davidson has left the door open to either star asking to be moved as the Blackhawks don't figure to win much in 2022-23.

Davidson was named interim GM last October after Stan Bowman and vice-president Al MacIsaac were forced out amid scandal. An independent report confirmed the organization badly mishandled 2008 first-round pick Kyle Beach's allegations that he was sexually assaulted by video coach Brad Aldridge during the team's run to the 2010 Stanley Cup. The Blackhawks were already sliding when the report hit. Expected to contend for a playoff spot, Chicago started out 1-9-2 last season, leading to the firing of coach Jeremy Colliton. Derek King was named interim coach and remains an assistant under Richardson. King attempted a rescue last season, but the Blackhawks landed at 28-42-12.

Chicago's roster in 2022-23 will be unsettled. Perhaps the best that can be hoped for is the emergence of prospects and laying the groundwork for future success.

>OFFENSE

The Hawks' theme for 2022-23 is "high speed, high compete," but Chicago will struggle to score. At 33, Kane has lost no wizardry and comes off a 92-point season. The 34-year-old Toews has slowed after sitting out 2020-21 with chronic immune response syndrome. Beyond Kane and Toews, only three rostered players – 32-year-old Tyler Johnson and free-agent signees Max Domi and Andreas Athanasiou – have ever scored 20 or more goals in the NHL. Davidson says Domi rates as a top-six forward on the Blackhawks because of his compete level. That says a lot.

The Blackhawks lack finishers, especially with young sniper Alex DeBrincat traded to Ottawa. Chicago also gave up on 2019 third-overall pick Kirby Dach, 21, and traded

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD	28-42-12 (.415)
OVERTIME	6-10
SHOOTOUT	6-2
OVERALL	27th
OFFENSE	2.60 GPG (29th)
DEFENSE	3.52 GAA (26th)
POWER PLAY	19.2% (21st)
PENALTY KILL	76.2% (24th)
CORSI FOR/60	50.19 (29th)
CORSI AGAINST/60	58.96 (26th)
ICE TIME LEAD (F)	P. Kane (21:49)
ICE TIME LEAD (D)	S. Jones (26:13)

FAST FACTS

COACH	Luke Richardson
GM	Kyle Davidson
ARENA	United Center
CAPACITY	19,717
AHL AFFILIATE	Rockford IceHogs
ECHL AFFILIATE	Indy Fuel
PLAYOFF RECORD	4-5 (since 2018)

him to Montreal as part of a series of moves that eventually netted three first-round picks in 2022. Inconsistent Dylan Strome and Dominik Kubalik also depart via free agency.

>DEFENSE

Seth Jones was a bright spot last season after the Blackhawks gave him an eight-year, $76-million extension that kicks in this year. Jones led the team with 26:13 of ice time per game as a quarterback on both sides of the puck. Could the 27-year-old be traded? Nothing is off the table.

Other veteran defensemen include Connor Murphy (recovering from a concussion) and Jake McCabe. Davidson seems to like youngsters Caleb Jones (Seth's brother) and Riley Stillman. Top D-men prospects include big Alec Regula and Alex Vlasic, as well as skilled Nicolas Beaudin and Ian Mitchell. All have shuffled between the Blackhawks and the AHL.

SETH JONES

PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS

>GOALTENDING

This is Chicago's most set position. Petr Mrazek, acquired in a trade from Toronto, will start 2022-23 as the Hawks' No. 1 netminder. The 30-year-old Czech will try to keep a career 2.64 goals-against average and .909 save percentage from deteriorating. Alex Stalock, a 35-year-old with 152 games of NHL experience, was signed as a free agent to be the backup. The third goalie in the mix is Arvid Soderblom, a 23-year-old Swede who appeared in his first three NHL games last year. The Blackhawks became even less competitive last season after oft-heroic Marc-Andre Fleury was sent to Minnesota at the trade deadline. So-so Kevin Lankinen and Collin Delia left as free agents.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

In Kane, Toews and Jones, the foundation for one solid power-play unit appears to be in place. But there's no finisher. Third-year center Philipp Kurashev might get a chance to audition for the role. An oddity: no Blackhawks defenseman scored a PP goal last season. That hadn't happened with an NHL team since Buffalo in 1970-71.

>INTANGIBLES

Will Kane and Toews stay or ask to be moved to a contender? Davidson has all but said he would try to find a deal for either if they want to leave. Both are set to become UFAs at the end of the season. Kane and Toews could wait for the 2022-23 campaign to unfold, then allow a deal to a Cup contender at the deadline.

>ROOKIES

The Blackhawks need their top prospects to start producing. Most have had a cup of coffee in the NHL. On the list are D-men Mitchell, Beaudin and Regula, as well as left winger Lukas Reichel, Chicago's first-round pick in 2020. The wiry German Reichel had one assist in 11 NHL games last season and needs to get stronger. Center Colton Dach, Kirby's younger brother, might be ready to fight for a job.

CUP ODDS

90/1

>X-FACTOR

Make no mistake, the Blackhawks are one big X-factor. Richardson himself said he's not sure what the lineup will look like nor what philosophy the team will employ. It is expected that the Blackhawks' new coach wants his club to improve defensively and play with more speed. The exit of Kane and/or Toews would mark the end of an era in Chicago.

>THE BRASS

All eyes will be on the 53-year-old Richardson. The Ottawa native was an assistant with Montreal the past four seasons as well as a head coach in the AHL for four years. Like Richardson, who played 1,417 NHL games, King and fellow assistant Kevin Dean both have long playing and coaching backgrounds. After the Beach scandal, Danny Wirtz, son of owner Rocky Wirtz, has taken on a more active role. H

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Max Domi	1. Jonathan Toews	1. Patrick Kane
2. Andreas Athanasiou	2. Tyler Johnson	2. Taylor Raddysh
3. Philipp Kurashev	3. Sam Lafferty	3. Lukas Reichel
4. Jujhar Khaira	4. Colin Blackwell	4. MacKenzie Entwistle
5. Boris Katchouk	5. Reese Johnson	5. Mike Hardman

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Seth Jones	6. Alex Vlasic	1. Petr Mrazek
2. Connor Murphy	7. Alec Regula	2. Alex Stalock
3. Jake McCabe	8. Ian Mitchell	3. Arvid Soderblom
4. Caleb Jones	9. Nicolas Beaudin	🟥 INJURED
5. Riley Stillman	10. Filip Roos	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Alex DeBrincat, LW; Dylan Strome, C; Kirby Dach, C; Dominik Kubalik, LW; Kevin Lankinen, G; Calvin de Haan, D; Erik Gustafsson, D; Henrik Borgstrom, LW; Collin Delia, G

LUKAS REICHEL

FUTURE WATCH

GM KYLE DAVIDSON SET off fireworks on the first night of the draft when he dealt Alex DeBrincat and Kirby Dach. Davidson landed the stripped-down Hawks two first-rounders, used on skilled defenseman Kevin Korchinski and high-motor center Frank Nazar. Chicago got a third first-rounder by taking Petr Mrazek off Toronto's hands and went with mobile D-man Sam Rinzel. Look for top prospect Lukas Reichel to make Hawks this season.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Lukas Reichel, LW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Rockford (AHL)

Good skater has offensive gifts galore and oodles of upside. Nephew of ex-NHLer Robert.

Acquired 17th overall, 2020 **NHL** '22-23

2. Kevin Korchinski, D

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Seattle (WHL)

Incredible skater for his size and a clever playmaker. Could add aggression in his own zone.

Acquired 7th overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

3. Frank Nazar, RW

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** USA U18 (NTDP)

Speedster goes zero-to-sixty in seconds and gets to scoring zone. He can be a real battler.

Acquired 13th overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

4. Sam Rinzel, D

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Chaska (USHS)

More substance than style for long-limbed defender. Long-term project is Minnesota commit.

Acquired 25th overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

5. Nicolas Beaudin, D

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Rockford (AHL)

Production slipped, but he's beginning to settle into pro game. His skating sets him apart.

Acquired 27th overall, 2018 **NHL** '23-24

6. Nolan Allan, D

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Prince Albert (WHL)

Need a magnifying glass to find holes in his game but lacks elite skill. Mistakes are rare.

Acquired 32nd overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

7. Drew Commesso, G

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Boston University (HE)

Technically and positionally sound keeper plays angles well. U.S. Olympian shut out host China.

Acquired 46th overall, 2020 **NHL** '25-26

8. Paul Ludwinski, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Kingston (OHL)

Fleet-footed, competitive pivot ramped up production down stretch and into OHL playoffs.

Acquired 39th overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

9. Colton Dach, LW

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Kelowna (WHL)

Brother of Kirby has a prototypical power-forward frame. Not afraid to shoot from anywhere.

Acquired 62nd overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

10. Ryan Greene, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Green Bay (USHL)

Undeniably talented but has had trouble piecing it all together. Some wish he had more fire.

Acquired 57th overall, 2022 **NHL** '27-28

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Dominic Basse	21	Colorado Col. (NCHC)	24	6	15	2	3.23	.888
Drew Commesso	20	Boston Univ. (HE)	28	13	11	3	2.52	.914
Petr Mrazek	30	Toronto	20	12	6	0	3.34	.888
Ivan Nalimov	28	Vladivostok (KHL)	10	0	7	0	3.50	.890
Arvid Soderblom	23	Rockford (AHL)	38	21	15	2	2.76	.919
Alex Stalock	35	Bake/SJ (AHL)	17	4	10	2	3.98	.869
Jaxson Stauber	23	Providence (HE)	37	21	14	2	2.10	.921

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Nolan Allan	19	Prince Albert (WHL)	65	7	34	41	69
Nicolas Beaudin	22	Rockford (AHL)	66	2	14	16	68
Louis Crevier	21	Quebec (QMJHL)	62	10	26	36	18
Ethan Del Mastro	19	Mississauga (OHL)	68	7	41	48	91
Stanislav Demin	22	UMass (HE)	22	1	2	3	4
Josh Ess	23	Wisconsin (Big10)	37	1	5	6	4
Jakub Galvas	23	Rockford (AHL)	59	2	18	20	14
Taige Harding	20	Fort McMurray (AJHL)	37	14	23	37	48
Caleb Jones	25	Chicago	51	5	10	15	18
Seth Jones	28	Chicago	78	5	46	51	28
Wyatt Kaiser	20	Minn.-Duluth (NCHC)	34	2	17	19	46
Connor Kelley	20	Minn.-Duluth (NCHC)	39	2	9	11	20
Kevin Korchinski	18	Seattle (WHL)	67	4	61	65	40
Michael Krutil	20	Vaxjo (Swe)	21	0	5	5	4
Jake McCabe	28	Chicago	75	4	18	22	33
Ian Mitchell	23	Rockford (AHL)	57	11	24	35	19
Connor Murphy	29	Chicago	57	4	6	10	47
Isaak Phillips	21	Rockford (AHL)	64	10	15	25	46
Alec Regula	22	Rockford (AHL)	41	4	22	26	37
Sam Rinzel	18	Chaska (High-MN)	27	9	29	38	22
Filip Roos	23	Skelleftea (Swe)	50	1	5	6	8
Jake Ryczek	24	Adirondack (ECHL)	48	6	19	25	34
Riley Stillman	24	Chicago	52	2	10	12	36
Alex Vlasic	28	Boston Univ. (HE)	32	1	7	8	31

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Andreas Athanasiou	28	Los Angeles	28	11	6	17	4
Evan Barratt	23	Rockford (AHL)	63	14	14	28	70
Colin Blackwell	29	Sea/Tor	78	10	10	20	14
Colton Dach	19	Kelowna (WHL)	61	29	50	79	53
Max Domi	27	Clb/Car	72	11	28	39	55
Victor Ejdsell	27	Farjestad (Swe)	48	8	9	17	45
Mackenzie Entwistle	23	Chicago	55	5	7	12	23
Parker Foo	24	Kunlun (KHL)	35	7	10	17	24
Liam Gorman	22	Princeton (ECAC)	28	3	3	6	16
Ryan Greene	18	Green Bay (USHL)	59	19	32	51	53
Mike Hardman	23	Rockford (AHL)	43	19	13	32	8
Gavin Hayes	18	Flint (OHL)	65	19	30	49	18
Dominic James	20	Minn.-Duluth (NCHC)	39	6	12	18	12
Reese Johnson	24	Chicago	37	1	5	6	16
Tyler Johnson	32	Chicago	26	3	4	7	12
Nils Juntorp	18	HV71 (Swe Jr.)	44	17	24	41	18
Patrick Kane	33	Chicago	78	26	66	92	18
Boris Katchouk	24	TB/Chi	59	3	4	7	39
Artur Kayumov	24	Yaroslavl (KHL)	42	10	9	19	10
Jujhar Khaira	28	Chicago	27	3	0	3	13
Philipp Kurashev	22	Chicago	67	6	15	21	12
Sam Lafferty	27	Pit/Chi	56	6	8	14	27
Paul Ludwinski	18	Kingston (OHL)	67	16	27	43	20
Jaylen Luypen	20	Edmonton (WHL)	66	29	35	64	40
Frank Nazar	18	USA U18 (NTDP)	56	28	42	70	20
Luke Philip	27	Stockton (AHL)	66	21	23	44	16
Jakub Pour	23	Rockford (AHL)	44	6	2	8	20
Taylor Raddysh	24	TB/Chi	74	11	11	22	10
Lukas Reichel	20	Rockford (AHL)	56	21	36	57	6
Buddy Robinson	31	Anaheim	32	1	5	6	19
Ryder Rolston	20	Notre Dame (Big10)	38	10	17	27	24
Antti Saarela	21	Ilves (Fin)	37	12	7	19	24
Ilya Safonov	21	Kazan (KHL)	43	8	4	12	27
Samuel Savoie	18	Gatineau (QMJHL)	64	18	15	33	45
Brett Seney	26	Toronto (AHL)	62	17	42	59	81
Maxim Shalunov	29	Yaroslavl (KHL)	32	8	7	15	10
Dylan Sikura	27	Colorado (AHL)	60	33	40	73	16
Landon Slaggert	20	Notre Dame (Big10)	40	12	14	26	39
Josiah Slavin	23	Rockford (AHL)	49	18	14	32	18
Victor Sternbjorg	19	Vaxjo (Swe)	15	0	2	2	29
Michal Teply	21	Rockford (AHL)	60	13	18	31	6
Aidan Thompson	20	Lincoln (USHL)	57	24	58	82	52
Jonathan Toews	34	Chicago	71	12	25	37	39
Riku Tohila	18	JYP (Fin Jr.)	41	7	8	15	32
Jake Wise	22	Ohio St. (Big10)	35	10	18	28	2

REICHEL: MARCO LEIPOLD/CITY-PRESS GMBH

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																				2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	P/GP	EVG	EVP	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	OTG	GWG	S	S%	TOI/GP	FOW%	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM
Patrick Kane	78	26	66	92	-19	18	1.18	17	61	9	31	0	0	0	2	287	9.1	21:49	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alex DeBrincat	82	41	37	78	-13	19	0.95	27	50	14	28	0	0	4	6	270	15.2	20:51	37.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Seth Jones	78	5	46	51	-37	28	0.65	5	31	0	19	0	1	0	0	194	2.6	26:13	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dylan Strome	69	22	26	48	-6	28	0.70	17	32	5	16	0	0	0	2	126	17.5	17:26	52.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brandon Hagel	55	21	16	37	-14	23	0.67	17	30	4	6	0	1	0	3	94	22.3	17:28	38.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jonathan Toews	71	12	25	37	-14	39	0.52	7	29	4	7	1	1	0	2	125	9.6	17:29	59.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dominik Kubalik	78	15	17	32	-16	16	0.41	12	23	3	9	0	0	0	0	161	9.3	14:31	40.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kirby Dach	70	9	17	26	-18	43	0.37	7	19	2	6	0	1	0	0	116	7.8	18:03	32.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jake McCabe	75	4	18	22	-27	33	0.29	4	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	80	5.0	20:18	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Philipp Kurashev	67	6	15	21	-16	12	0.31	4	16	2	5	0	0	1	1	86	7.0	12:51	42.2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Erik Gustafsson	59	3	15	18	-4	14	0.31	3	14	0	4	0	0	0	0	79	3.8	16:13	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Caleb Jones	51	5	10	15	-3	18	0.29	5	14	0	1	0	0	1	1	57	8.8	16:43	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
MacKenzie Entwistle	55	5	7	12	-16	23	0.22	4	11	0	0	1	1	0	0	34	14.7	10:15	40.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Riley Stillman	52	2	10	12	-8	36	0.23	2	12	0	0	0	0	0	1	49	4.1	15:04	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sam Lafferty	46	5	6	11	-16	21	0.24	5	11	0	0	0	0	0	1	71	7.0	14:38	42.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ryan Carpenter	59	3	8	11	-10	36	0.19	3	10	0	1	0	0	0	2	61	4.9	12:46	52.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Taylor Raddysh	21	6	4	10	-4	2	0.48	3	7	3	3	0	0	0	0	43	14.0	15:34	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Connor Murphy	57	4	6	10	-14	47	0.18	4	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	71	5.6	21:46	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Calvin de Haan	69	4	4	8	-21	33	0.12	4	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	107	3.7	18:57	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Henrik Borgstrom	52	4	3	7	-14	22	0.13	4	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	41	9.8	10:31	40.2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tyler Johnson	26	3	4	7	-8	12	0.27	3	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	30	10.0	12:59	60.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Reese Johnson	37	1	5	6	-13	16	0.16	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	4.2	10:38	50.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jujhar Khaira	27	3	0	3	-4	13	0.11	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	9.4	13:36	52.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Adam Gaudette	8	1	1	2	-3	4	0.25	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	10	10.0	10:31	40.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alex Vlasic	15	1	1	2	-2	2	0.13	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	8.3	14:19	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mike Hardman	21	0	2	2	-6	11	0.10	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0.0	9:18	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Boris Katchouk	21	1	0	1	-10	14	0.05	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	4.6	10:07	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alec Regula	15	1	0	1	-1	12	0.07	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	5.6	17:53	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brett Connolly	9	0	1	1	-3	15	0.11	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.0	8:24	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ian Mitchell	8	0	1	1	-3	0	0.13	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	11:56	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Josiah Slavin	15	0	1	1	0	4	0.07	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0.0	12:02	43.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lukas Reichel	11	0	1	1	-8	0	0.09	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0.0	13:12	34.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kurtis Gabriel	2	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	6:02	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jakub Galvas	6	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0.0	18:10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Wyatt Kalynuk	5	0	0	0	-3	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	12:00	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nicolas Beaudin	2	0	0	0	-1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	6:10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Isaak Phillips	4	0	0	0	-1	4	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.0	12:20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	GP	GS	W	L	OT	SA	SVS	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO	G	A	P	PIM	GP	GS	W	L	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO
Marc-Andre Fleury	45	45	19	21	5	1,398	1,269	129	.908	2.95	2626:58	4	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kevin Lankinen	32	29	8	15	6	973	867	106	.891	3.50	1815:35	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Collin Delia	8	6	1	4	1	218	196	22	.899	3.85	343:06	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Arvid Soderblom	3	2	0	2	0	95	82	13	.863	5.01	155:49	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Wed, Oct 12	@ Colorado	9:30 PM
Thu, Oct 13	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 15	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Fri, Oct 21	vs Detroit	8:30 PM
Sun, Oct 23	vs Seattle	2:00 PM
Tue, Oct 25	vs Florida	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 27	vs Edmonton	8:30 PM
Sat, Oct 29	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 30	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	vs NY Islanders	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 3	vs Los Angeles	8:30 PM
Sat, Nov 5	@ Winnipeg	3:00 PM
Thu, Nov 10	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Sat, Nov 12	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Mon, Nov 14	vs Carolina	8:30 PM
Wed, Nov 16	vs St. Louis	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 19	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 20	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 23	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Fri, Nov 25	vs Montreal	2:00 PM
Sun, Nov 27	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 30	vs Edmonton	9:30 PM
Sat, Dec 3	@ NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Sun, Dec 4	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Tue, Dec 6	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 9	vs Winnipeg	8:30 PM
Tue, Dec 13	vs Washington	8:30 PM
Thu, Dec 15	vs Vegas	8:30 PM
Fri, Dec 16	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sun, Dec 18	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 21	vs Nashville	8:30 PM
Fri, Dec 23	vs Columbus	8:30 PM
Tue, Dec 27	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 29	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 31	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 1	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 3	vs Tampa Bay	8:30 PM
Fri, Jan 6	vs Arizona	8:30 PM
Sun, Jan 8	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 12	vs Colorado	8:30 PM
Sat, Jan 14	vs Seattle	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 17	vs Buffalo	8:30 PM
Thu, Jan 19	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sun, Jan 22	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 24	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 26	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 28	@ Edmonton	10:00 PM
Tue, Feb 7	vs Anaheim	8:30 PM
Fri, Feb 10	vs Arizona	8:30 PM
Sat, Feb 11	@ Winnipeg	10:00 PM
Tue, Feb 14	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Wed, Feb 15	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 17	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 19	vs Toronto	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 21	vs Vegas	8:30 PM
Wed, Feb 22	@ Dallas	7:30 PM
Sat, Feb 25	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Mon, Feb 27	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Tue, Feb 28	@ Arizona	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 2	vs Dallas	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 4	vs Nashville	8:00 PM
Mon, Mar 6	vs Ottawa	9:00 PM
Wed, Mar 8	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Fri, Mar 10	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 14	vs Boston	8:30 PM
Thu, Mar 16	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 18	@ Arizona	10:30 PM
Mon, Mar 20	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 23	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	@ Minnesota	5:00 PM
Sun, Mar 26	vs Vancouver	6:00 PM
Tue, Mar 28	vs Dallas	8:30 PM
Thu, Mar 30	vs St. Louis	8:30 PM
Sat, Apr 1	vs New Jersey	8:00 PM
Tue, Apr 4	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Thu, Apr 6	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 8	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Mon, Apr 10	vs Minnesota	8:30 PM
Tue, Apr 11	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	vs Philadelphia	8:30 PM

JONATHAN TOEWS

NICK TURCHIARO-USA TODAY SPORTS

COLORADO AVALANCHE

THN PREDICTION | 1ST IN CENTRAL

NATHAN MACKINNON

DAVID KIROUAC-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY MIKE CHAMBERS

THE FREE-AGENCY retention rate for the 2022 Stanley Cup champions was high. The Avalanche remain in their window to win, and everyone who hoisted the Cup wanted the opportunity to repeat. Colorado captured its third NHL championship – its first in 21 years – with most of its core under contract beyond 2022, and newly named GM Chris MacFarland prevented four other key players from testing the open market. Power forward Valeri Nichushkin and shutdown defenseman Josh Manson were signed to multi-year contracts, while two-thirds of the valuable fourth line – veterans Darren Helm and Andrew Cogliano – agreed to one-year deals. In addition, MacFarland locked in left winger Artturi Lehkonen with a five-year extension, preventing the top-six forward – who was especially clutch in the playoffs – from becoming a UFA next summer.

The Avs' only significant UFA losses were center Nazem Kadri, left winger Andre Burakovsky and goaltender Darcy Kuemper, but the latter was replaced in a trade for Alexandar Georgiev. The Bulgarian stopper was the only major addition to a team that enters this season as a favorite to win it all again.

>OFFENSE

There's superstar firepower at the top and plenty of depth support. The Avs boasted seven 20-goal scorers last season and ranked fourth in goals per game at 3.76. Big, smooth winger Mikko Rantanen led the way with 36 goals and 92 points, and his top-line mates were lethal when healthy: Nathan MacKinnon struck for 32 goals and 88 points in 65 games, and Gabriel Landeskog had 30 goals and 59 points in 51 games. And they kept it going in the playoffs, where all three averaged better than a point per game. MacKinnon had 13 goals in 20 post-season games, averaging nearly six shots per outing. They make up a unit as dangerous as any line in the league.

The losses of Kadri and Burakovsky sting, but the secondary scoring remains. Nichushkin has found his sweet spot as a two-way force (25 goals, 52 points). Lehkonen had 14 goals in 36 combined regular-season and playoff games after coming over from Montreal at the trade deadline. J.T. Compher scored a career-high 18 goals, and Alex Newhook contributed 13 goals as a promising rookie. The 28 goals Makar scored in the regular season were the most by an NHL defenseman since 2016-17.

>DEFENSE

The Avs may have the league's best blueline, and it starts with perhaps the best left shot/right shot pairing

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD	56-19-7 (.726)
OVERTIME	6-5
SHOOTOUT	4-2
OVERALL	2nd
OFFENSE	3.76 (4th)
DEFENSE	2.83 (9th)
POWER PLAY	24.0% (7th)
PENALTY KILL	79.7% (15th)
CORSI FOR/60	61.58 (4th)
CORSI AGAINST/60	54.91 (14th)
ICE TIME LEAD (F)	N. MacKinnon (21:04)
ICE TIME LEAD (D)	C. Makar (25:40)

FAST FACTS

COACH	Jared Bednar
GM	Chris MacFarland
ARENA	Ball Arena
CAPACITY	18,007
AHL AFFILIATE	Colorado Eagles
ECHL AFFILIATE	Utah Grizzlies
PLAYOFF RECORD	38-22 (since 2018)

CALE
MAKAR

DAVID KIROUAC-USA TODAY SPORTS

in Makar and Devon Toews. They finished 1-2 in plus-minus among D-men last season at a combined plus-100 (Toews was plus-52, Makar plus-48). Makar won the Norris Trophy at 23, and he's only getting better. Wayne Gretzky dubbed him the most impactful player since Bobby Orr. The legend grows.

The Avs have another young gem in Bowen Byram, 21, the first defenseman selected in the 2019 draft, at fourth overall. He overcame multiple concussions to average 19:21 of ice time in the playoffs, including 28:25 in Game 4 of the final. Byram partnered with Erik Johnson last season, but he could see time with shutdown defender Manson. Puck-mover Sam Girard can play on any pairing, and there's more depth behind him.

>GOALTENDING

Colorado is sticking with the tandem approach instead of paying the No. 1 guy more than $3.5 million. The Avs effectively parted ways with Kuemper before free agency by acquiring Georgiev from the New York Rangers for three draft picks. The club then signed the pending RFA to a three-year, $10.2-million deal. Georgiev will get the opening-night start, and Pavel Francouz, who went 6-0 in the playoffs, will again serve as the highly capable backup.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

A league-high 32.8-percent power play in the playoffs led Colorado to a sparkling 16-4 record, tied for the second-best in NHL history since the league went to the four-round, best-of-seven-series format in the '80s. Most of the skilled players will be back, with Makar, MacKinnon, Rantanen and Landeskog featured on the No. 1 unit. Assistant coach Ray Bennett will continue to design the schemes that include Makar and MacKinnon trading places at the point and left wing as dangerous right-shot shooters. On the penalty kill, Helm, Cogliano and Manson headline an area where the Avs were 80.4 percent in the playoffs. Makar and Toews, plus right winger Logan O'Connor and D-man Erik Johnson, will again be key players on the kill.

>INTANGIBLES

Captain Landeskog and his alternates, MacKinnon and Rantanen, are now proven leaders. They went through the growing pains of three straight second-round losses before last spring's magical run and firmly believe they're still the team to beat. They trust coach Jared Bednar and his staff, and the chemistry and identity of this team won't change. The breakneck pace of play sparked by defensemen moving the puck up ice will again create a collective buy-in from Day 1 of the new season.

>ROOKIES

Look for Swedish right winger Oskar Olausson, 19, to stick with the Avs through training camp and pre-season. The 2021 first-round pick (28th overall) made his AHL debut in the playoffs for the Colorado Eagles after collecting 49 points, including 26 goals, in 55 games for Barrie and Oshawa as an OHL rookie last season.

>X-FACTOR

Makar is the reigning Norris Trophy winner (and two-time finalist). And he claimed all 18 first-place votes to win the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP. It should scare opponents that he's still trending up. Makar's sensational two-way skills are world-class. Nobody else does it as well.

>THE BRASS

MacFarland succeeded Joe Sakic as GM after the latter was promoted to executive vice-president of hockey operations in the lead-up to free agency. The change was probably necessary to keep MacFarland in Colorado. The New York native has been the behind-the-scenes genius since the 2017 rebuild began. H

CUP ODDS

12/1

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Gabriel Landeskog	1. Nathan MacKinnon	1. Mikko Rantanen
2. Artturi Lehkonen	2. Alex Newhook	2. Valeri Nichushkin
3. Andrew Cogliano	3. J.T. Compher	3. Logan O'Connor
4. Sampo Ranta	4. Darren Helm	4. Oskar Olausson
5. Lukas Sedlak	5. Ben Meyers	5. Martin Kaut

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Cale Makar	6. Erik Johnson	1. Alexandar Georgiev
2. Devon Toews	7. Kurtis MacDermid	2. Pavel Francouz
3. Bowen Byram	8. Brad Hunt	3. Jonas Johansson
4. Josh Manson	9. Jacob MacDonald	✚ INJURED
5. Samuel Girard	10. Andreas Englund	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Nazem Kadri, C; Andre Burakovsky, RW; Darcy Kuemper, G; Nicolas Aube-Kubel, RW; Nico Sturm, C; Jack Johnson, D; Ryan Murray, D

OSKAR **OLAUSSON**

FUTURE WATCH

TIMES HAVE BEEN LEAN for Avs scouts lately, though nothing can cheer you up more than a Stanley Cup parade. The reigning champs have only made 11 selections in three drafts, including just two in 2022 – picks No. 193 (Chris Romaine) and last overall (Ivan Zhigalov). The fruits of past drafts have paid off, with Bowen Byram and Alex Newhook contributing, while the next generation is led by Oskar Olausson, who went from the OHL to the AHL playoffs.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Oskar Olausson, LW

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Oshawa (OHL)
Crafty scorer has a bullet from the off wing. Production dipped late, but no big concern.
Acquired 28th overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

2. Justus Annunen, G

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Colorado (AHL)
Big-bodied netminder covers plenty of real estate. Quickness is in need of improvement.
Acquired 64th overall, 2018 **NHL** '23-24

3. Sean Behrens, D

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Denver (NCHC)
Don't let 5-foot-10 frame fool you: he can be gritty, shutdown 'D.' Few boxes he doesn't tick.
Acquired 61st overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

4. Sampo Ranta, RW

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Colorado (AHL)
Power forward posted respectable totals in rookie season. Improving skating would be big.
Acquired 78th overall, 2018 **NHL** '22-23

5. Nikolai Kovalenko, RW

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Kazan (KHL)
Depth scorer began to plateau offensively in fourth KHL season. Son of former NHLer Andrei.
Acquired 171st overall, 2018 **NHL** '23-24

6. Martin Kaut, RW

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Colorado (AHL)
Excitement becoming consternation as he struggles to make jump. Mega untapped talent.
Acquired 16th overall, 2018 **NHL** '22-23

7. Shane Bowers, C

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Colorado (AHL)
Impressive toolbox and a real goal-scorer's release. Injuries have hindered development.
Acquired From Ott, Nov. 2017 **NHL** '23-24

8. Trent Miner, G

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Utah (ECHL)
Keeps his net well and can get post-to-post in a hurry. Good ECHL numbers. Next stop: AHL.
Acquired 202nd overall, 2019 **NHL** '26-27

9. Matt Stienburg, C

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Cornell (ECAC)
Led Big Red in scoring as a sophomore after no games in 2020-21. No reason to rush him along.
Acquired 63rd overall, 2019 **NHL** '25-26

10. Alex Beaucage, RW

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Colorado (AHL)
Former QMJHL sniper struggled as a rookie pro, but his production increased in AHL playoffs.
Acquired 78th overall, 2019 **NHL** '25-26

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Justus Annunen	22	Colorado (AHL)	48	24	13	6	3.01	.893
Pavel Francouz	32	Colorado	21	15	5	1	2.55	.916
Alexander Georgiev	26	NY Rangers	33	15	10	2	2.92	.898
Jonas Johansson	27	Fla/Col	11	3	4	1	4.69	.856
Trent Miner	21	Utah (ECHL)	28	16	12	0	2.72	.910
Shamil Shmakov	23	Neftekamsk (Rus2)	9	2	4	3	2.31	.916
Ivan Zhigalov	19	Sherbrooke (QMJHL)	42	26	9	3	2.84	.892

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Wyatt Aamodt	24	Minn. St. Mank. (NCHC)	41	6	6	12	33
Sean Behrens	19	Denver (NCHC)	37	3	26	29	12
Sergei Boikov	26	Dynamo Moscow (KHL)	28	1	5	6	14
Bowen Byram	21	Colorado	30	5	12	17	12
Nathan Clurman	24	Utah (ECHL)	54	3	21	24	28
Andreas Englund	26	Colorado (AHL)	57	2	10	12	103
Samuel Girard	24	Colorado	67	5	23	28	20
Brad Hunt	34	Vancouver	50	3	14	17	12
Josh Jacobs	26	Chicago (AHL)	51	4	11	15	24
Erik Johnson	34	Colorado	77	8	17	25	24
Nicky Leivermann	24	Notre Dame (Big10)	34	6	21	27	8
Kurtis MacDermid	28	Colorado	58	2	3	5	89
Jacob MacDonald	29	Colorado (AHL)	33	10	15	25	30
Cale Makar	23	Colorado	77	28	58	86	26
Josh Manson	30	Ana/Col	67	6	10	16	65
Keaton Middleton	24	Colorado (AHL)	49	2	9	11	76
Chris Romaine	18	Milton (High-MA)	18	9	13	22	N/A
Devon Toews	28	Colorado	66	13	44	57	20
Danila Zhuravlyov	22	Kazan (KHL)	43	1	5	6	14

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Colby Ambrosio	20	Boston Col. (HE)	38	9	13	22	8
Alex Beaucage	21	Colorado (AHL)	40	4	8	12	22
Shane Bowers	23	Colorado (AHL)	37	6	3	9	12
Anton Blidh	27	Boston	32	2	7	9	24
Callahan Burke	25	Colorado (AHL)	57	12	14	26	17
Andrei Buyalsky	22	Vermont (HE)	3	0	0	0	4
Andrew Cogliano	35	SJ/Col	74	4	12	16	20
J.T. Compher	27	Colorado	70	18	15	33	25
Jean-Luc Foudy	20	Colorado (AHL)	65	9	17	26	28
Darren Helm	35	Colorado	68	7	8	15	14
Charles Hudon	28	Syracuse (AHL)	66	30	27	57	56
Vladislav Kamenev	26	CSKA Moscow (KHL)	27	7	11	18	21
Martin Kaut	22	Colorado (AHL)	46	19	12	31	26
Nikolai Kovalenko	22	Kazan (KHL)	29	6	8	14	12
Gabriel Landeskog	29	Colorado	51	30	29	59	78
Artturi Lehkonen	27	Mtl/Col	74	19	19	38	22
Taylor Makar	21	UMass (HE)	17	1	0	1	12
Nathan MacKinnon	27	Colorado	65	32	56	88	42
Mikhail Maltsev	24	Colorado (AHL)	56	17	31	48	38
Jayson Megna	32	Colorado (AHL)	38	13	20	33	18
Ben Meyers	23	Minnesota (NCHC)	34	17	24	41	18
Alex Newhook	21	Colorado	71	13	20	33	12
Valeri Nichushkin	27	Colorado	62	25	27	52	14
Logan O'Connor	26	Colorado	81	8	16	24	38
Oskar Olausson	19	Bar/Osh (OHL)	55	26	23	49	18
Sampo Ranta	22	Colorado (AHL)	38	7	7	14	27
Mikko Rantanen	25	Colorado	75	36	56	92	56
Lukas Sedlak	29	Chelyabinsk (KHL)	49	18	25	43	36
Spencer Smallman	26	Chicago (AHL)	65	10	17	27	64
Matthew Stienburg	21	Cornell (ECAC)	28	13	16	29	30
Tyler Weiss	22	Neb.-Omaha (NCHC)	36	8	25	33	20

DEVON **TOEWS**

OLAUSSON: MATT ZAMBONIN/HHOF-IIHF IMAGES; TOEWS: BRAD PENNER-USA TODAY SPORTS

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																					2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**	**P/GP**	**EVG**	**EVP**	**PPG**	**PPP**	**SHG**	**SHP**	**OTG**	**GWG**	**S**	**S%**	**TOI/GP**	**FOW%**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**		
Mikko Rantanen	75	36	56	92	35	56	1.23	20	57	16	35	0	0	0	2	254	14.2	20:59	46.3	20	5	20	25	3	4		
Nathan MacKinnon	65	32	56	88	22	42	1.35	25	61	7	27	0	0	1	5	299	10.7	21:04	45.4	20	13	11	24	11	8		
Nazem Kadri	71	28	59	87	13	71	1.23	20	58	8	29	0	0	0	6	247	11.3	19:14	49.7	16	7	8	15	7	8		
Cale Makar	77	28	58	86	48	26	1.12	19	52	9	34	0	0	3	6	240	11.7	25:40	--	20	8	21	29	7	10		
Andre Burakovsky	80	22	39	61	12	18	0.76	18	50	4	11	0	0	0	5	149	14.8	16:16	40.0	12	3	5	8	3	2		
Gabriel Landeskog	51	30	29	59	27	78	1.16	23	44	7	15	0	0	1	5	150	20.0	20:19	54.9	20	11	11	22	15	6		
Devon Toews	66	13	44	57	52	20	0.86	11	45	2	12	0	0	1	3	158	8.2	25:22	--	20	5	10	15	5	8		
Valeri Nichushkin	62	25	27	52	21	14	0.84	18	41	5	9	2	2	0	5	180	13.9	19:02	0.0	20	9	6	15	6	8		
J.T. Compher	70	18	15	33	6	25	0.47	13	26	4	6	1	1	0	0	102	17.7	16:19	51.4	20	5	3	8	-1	10		
Alex Newhook	71	13	20	33	11	12	0.46	10	27	3	6	0	0	0	5	113	11.5	13:34	34.7	12	0	4	4	0	4		
Samuel Girard	67	5	23	28	-4	20	0.42	5	21	0	7	0	0	0	1	79	6.3	21:39	--	7	1	2	3	-1	0		
Erik Johnson	77	8	17	25	22	24	0.32	7	22	0	1	1	2	0	1	139	5.8	17:17	--	20	1	4	5	10	4		
Logan O'Connor	81	8	16	24	10	38	0.30	7	20	0	0	1	4	0	1	127	6.3	13:52	22.7	17	1	3	4	2	9		
Nicolas Aube-Kubel	67	11	11	22	14	41	0.33	11	22	0	0	0	0	0	2	78	14.1	9:49	25.0	14	0	0	0	2	4		
Bowen Byram	30	5	12	17	7	12	0.57	4	16	1	1	0	0	0	2	49	10.2	18:48	--	20	0	9	9	15	10		
Darren Helm	68	7	8	15	-5	14	0.22	6	13	0	0	1	2	0	1	93	7.5	10:33	44.2	20	2	3	5	3	12		
Tyson Jost	59	6	8	14	2	30	0.24	6	13	0	0	0	1	0	0	76	7.9	12:49	39.3	--	--	--	--	--	--		
Artturi Lehkonen	16	6	3	9	1	8	0.56	5	7	1	2	0	0	0	1	45	13.3	16:26	0.0	20	8	6	14	2	20		
Jack Johnson	74	1	8	9	5	42	0.12	1	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	57	1.8	16:45	--	13	0	0	0	1	10		
Josh Manson	22	2	5	7	-11	12	0.32	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	6.5	17:24	--	20	3	5	8	6	12		
Kurtis MacDermid	58	2	3	5	1	89	0.09	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	4.4	7:24	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		
Ryan Murray	37	0	4	4	-3	2	0.11	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	26	0.0	14:05	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		
Jayson Megna	20	0	3	3	-2	4	0.15	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0.0	10:18	48.3	--	--	--	--	--	--		
Nico Sturm	21	0	3	3	-2	6	0.14	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	0.0	12:48	54.6	13	0	2	2	2	2		
Kiefer Sherwood	11	1	1	2	3	0	0.18	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	11.1	8:34	100.0	--	--	--	--	--	--		
Ben Meyers	5	1	0	1	-2	0	0.20	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	12.5	9:57	45.8	--	--	--	--	--	--		
Andrew Cogliano	18	0	1	1	-2	8	0.06	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0.0	11:01	0.0	16	3	3	6	5	16		
Dylan Sikura	5	0	1	1	0	0	0.20	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0	9:57	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		
Stefan Matteau	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	3:39	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		
Jacob MacDonald	8	0	0	0	-1	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0.0	10:06	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		
Mikhail Maltsev	18	0	0	0	-5	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0.0	8:04	57.9	--	--	--	--	--	--		
Martin Kaut	6	0	0	0	2	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	8:49	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		
Sampo Ranta	10	0	0	0	-4	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.0	10:54	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--		
Jordan Gross	1	0	0	0	0	4	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	8:19	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		
Justin Barron	2	0	0	0	-1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	12:35	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																	2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**SA**	**SVS**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**	
Darcy Kuemper	57	57	37	12	4	1,754	1,616	138	.921	2.54	3258:45	5	2	16	16	10	4	386	348	38	.902	2.57	886:53	1	2	
Pavel Francouz	21	18	15	5	1	608	557	51	.916	2.55	1200:09	2	0	7	4	6	0	171	155	16	.906	2.81	341:11	1	0	
Jonas Johansson	9	6	3	2	1	200	177	23	.885	3.73	370:18	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Justus Annunen	2	1	1	0	1	51	44	7	.863	4.34	96:46	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Wed, Oct 12	vs Chicago	9:30 PM
Thu, Oct 13	@ Calgary	9:30 PM
Mon, Oct 17	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Wed, Oct 19	vs Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Fri, Oct 21	vs Seattle	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Tue, Oct 25	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Fri, Oct 28	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 29	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 4	vs Columbus *	1:00 PM
Sat, Nov 5	@ Columbus *	1:00 PM
Thu, Nov 10	vs Nashville	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 12	vs Carolina	9:00 PM
Mon, Nov 14	vs St. Louis	9:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 21	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Wed, Nov 23	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 25	@ Nashville	2:00 PM
Sat, Nov 26	vs Dallas	9:00 PM
Tue, Nov 29	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 1	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 3	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 5	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 7	vs Boston	9:00 PM
Fri, Dec 9	vs NY Rangers	9:00 PM
Sun, Dec 11	@ St. Louis	2:00 PM
Tue, Dec 13	vs Philadelphia	10:00 PM
Thu, Dec 15	vs Buffalo	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 17	vs Nashville	9:00 PM
Mon, Dec 19	vs NY Islanders	9:00 PM
Wed, Dec 21	vs Montreal	8:00 PM
Fri, Dec 23	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 27	@ Arizona	9:00 PM
Thu, Dec 29	vs Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 31	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 2	vs Vegas	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 5	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 7	@ Edmonton	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 10	vs Florida	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 12	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Sat, Jan 14	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 16	vs Detroit	3:00 PM
Wed, Jan 18	@ Calgary	10:00 PM
Fri, Jan 20	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 24	vs Washington	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 26	vs Anaheim	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 28	vs St. Louis	3:00 PM
Tue, Feb 7	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 9	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 11	@ Florida	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 14	vs Tampa Bay	9:00 PM
Wed, Feb 15	@ Minnesota	9:30 PM
Sat, Feb 18	@ St. Louis	2:00 PM
Sun, Feb 19	vs Edmonton	3:00 PM
Fri, Feb 24	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 25	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Mon, Feb 27	vs Vegas	9:00 PM
Wed, Mar 1	vs New Jersey	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 4	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sun, Mar 5	vs Seattle	9:00 PM
Tue, Mar 7	vs San Jose	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 9	vs Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	vs Arizona	6:00 PM
Mon, Mar 13	@ Montreal	7:30 PM
Wed, Mar 15	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 16	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 18	@ Detroit	1:00 PM
Mon, Mar 20	vs Chicago	9:00 PM
Wed, Mar 22	vs Pittsburgh	8:00 PM
Fri, Mar 24	vs Arizona	9:00 PM
Sun, Mar 26	@ Arizona	3:00 PM
Mon, Mar 27	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Wed, Mar 29	vs Minnesota	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 1	vs Dallas	9:00 PM
Tue, Apr 4	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Thu, Apr 6	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sat, Apr 8	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Sun, Apr 9	@ Anaheim	8:30 PM
Tue, Apr 11	vs Edmonton	9:30 PM
Thu, Apr 13	vs Winnipeg	9:00 PM

**Global Series in Finland*

MIKKO
RANTANEN

DAVID KIROUAC-USA TODAY SPORTS

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS

THN PREDICTION | 4TH IN METROPOLITAN

JOHNNY GAUDREAU

BEN JACKSON/COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS

BY BRIAN HEDGER

JARMO KEKALAINEN'S "reset" plan was moving ahead nicely. Heading into the off-season, the Blue Jackets GM had just watched his team, one of the NHL's youngest, exceed expectations with a sixth-place finish in the Metropolitan Division. He also held the sixth and 12th overall picks in the draft and used them to add a pair of top defense prospects in David Jiricek and Denton Mateychuk. As the start of free agency neared, Columbus had added five first-round picks in a two-year span, and two of them – centers Kent Johnson (fifth overall in 2021) and Cole Sillinger (12th overall in 2021) – had already logged NHL action. Combined with a retooled core that includes Patrik Laine, Zach Werenski, Boone Jenner and Elvis Merzlikins, the reset plan quickly took shape.

That's when 'Johnny Hockey' showed up.

Johnny Gaudreau's decision to sign a seven-year, $68.25-million contract with Columbus has cast the Blue Jackets in a new light. You can't write them off in the Eastern Conference, even though they're probably still outside playoff contention. Gaudreau, 29, still has a prime production window for several more years, though, and gains from a talented younger nucleus could make Columbus one of the NHL's next contenders.

>OFFENSE

A couple hours before snagging Gaudreau, Kekalainen signed rugged Calgary defenseman Erik Gudbranson. Scoring goals, the GM said, wasn't the Blue Jackets' problem – which was evident in Columbus' climb from 28th in goals in 2020-21 to 14th last season – but preventing them was a bigger issue. Not a single player scored 30-plus goals last season, but the Jackets' depth was impres-

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD	37-38-7 (.494)
OVERTIME	7-4
SHOOTOUT	4-3
OVERALL	21st
OFFENSE	3.15 GPG (14th)
DEFENSE	3.62 GAA (28th)
POWER PLAY	18.6% (24th)
PENALTY KILL	78.6% (20th)
CORSI FOR/60	54.45 (17th)
CORSI AGAINST/60	59.56 (29th)
ICE TIME LEAD (F)	B. Jenner (20:28)
ICE TIME LEAD (D)	Z. Werenski (25:40)

FAST FACTS

COACH	Brad Larsen
GM	Jarmo Kekalainen
ARENA	Nationwide Arena
CAPACITY	18,144
AHL AFFILIATE	Cleveland Monsters
ECHL AFFILIATE	Kalamazoo Wings
PLAYOFF RECORD	12-14 (since 2018)

sive. Four players topped 20, led by Oliver Bjorkstrand (28) and Laine (26), while a further eight netted 10-plus. (Bjorkstrand was an off-season cap casualty, traded to Seattle for draft picks.) There was also a boost from the blueline, where nine defensemen combined for 43 goals – led by Werenski and Adam Boqvist at 11 apiece. Adding Gaudreau – after a 40-goal, 115-point season – could push the Blue Jackets into the NHL's upper echelon on offense.

PATRIK LAINE

DAVID KIROUAC-USA TODAY SPORTS

>DEFENSE

One thing the Blue Jackets learned is that it's possible to have too many puck-movers. They loaded up with mobile defensemen, from prospects to NHLers, and the result was a double-edged sword. They dramatically improved their defensive-zone exits, but actually defending in that zone has become a glaring weakness, especially against heavier teams. That's a big reason Columbus allowed a whopping 297 goals last season, which ranked 28th in the league. It's also why Gudbranson was given a four-year, $16-million contract to add size, strength and snarl. Improved strength and better defensive play could turn Boqvist into an impressive weapon.

>GOALTENDING

It's time for Merzlikins to take another step. Coming off his first season as the top option, the 28-year-old is looking to improve on a pedestrian 27-23-7 record, 3.22 goals-against average and .907 save percentage. Starting a five-year contract with a $5.4-million cap charge, Merzlikins is expected to play like one of the NHL's best stoppers. Joonas Korpisalo and Daniil Tarasov are next in line, and both are coming off hip surgery.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

There were changes in personnel and coaching staff, but the Jackets stayed about the same on special teams. They remained 20th in penalty killing (78.6 percent), and the power play improved slightly, from 27th in 2020-21 to 24th last season. Adding Gaudreau will provide a bump on the PP, but he and Laine prefer manning the left wing – a wrinkle that will need to be ironed out. The penalty kill, led by assistant coach Steve McCarthy, needs more shot-blocking from a collection of speedy, skilled forwards who like to take risks attempting to force turnovers.

>INTANGIBLES

Brad Larsen's sequel as coach might turn out even better than his NHL debut. His coaching staff returns intact, and almost the entire leadership group remains, led by Jenner as captain. Adding Gaudreau's firepower and Gudbranson's sandpaper might be what the Blue Jackets need to take a big stride forward.

>ROOKIES

Signing a pair of established veterans won't make the Blue Jackets much older. Watch for three rookies – Johnson, winger Kirill Marchenko and defenseman Nick Blankenburg – to earn significant time.

CUP ODDS

29/1

>X-FACTOR

Should the defense and goaltending improve even marginally, the Blue Jackets have enough offense to be a playoff dark horse. And if Merzlikins returns to the peak form of his rookie year, it would increase Columbus' chances even more.

>THE BRASS

Playoff contention became a possibility in the time it took to get Gaudreau's signature. That's what can happen with a front office led by Kekalainen and John Davidson, the Blue Jackets' president of hockey operations. If there's a shot to make the playoffs, the Blue Jackets won't hesitate to act.

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Johnny Gaudreau	**1.** Boone Jenner	**1.** Patrik Laine
2. Gustav Nyquist	**2.** Jack Roslovic	**2.** Jakub Voracek
3. Kirill Marchenko	**3.** Cole Sillinger	**3.** Alexandre Texier
4. Eric Robinson	**4.** Kent Johnson	**4.** Yegor Chinakhov
5. Justin Danforth	**5.** Sean Kuraly	**5.** Mathieu Olivier

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Zach Werenski	**6.** Jake Bean	**1.** Elvis Merzlikins
2. Vladislav Gavrikov	**7.** Nick Blankenburg	**2.** Joonas Korpisalo
3. Adam Boqvist	**8.** Gavin Bayreuther	**3.** Daniil Tarasov
4. Andrew Peeke	**9.** Jake Christiansen	✚ INJURED
5. Erik Gudbranson	**10.** Marcus Bjork	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Oliver Bjorkstrand, RW; Dean Kukan, D; Gabriel Carlsson, D; Kevin Stenlund, C; Scott Harrington, D

KENT
JOHNSON

JOHNSON: BRIAN FLUHARTY-USA TODAY SPORTS

FUTURE WATCH

AFTER PULLING A PAIR of ace forwards at the 2021 draft in Kent Johnson and Cole Sillinger, GM Jarmo Kekalainen and crew got defensive in Round 1 of 2022. David Jiricek, a toss-up with Simon Nemec as the best blueliner available in the draft, was taken sixth overall, while Moose Jaw's Denton Mateychuk went 12th. Elsewhere in 2022, the Jackets got a small scorer with a chip on his shoulder in Jordan Dumais, plus a massive and raw scorer in Kirill Dolzhenkov.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Kent Johnson, C

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Michigan (Big Ten)
A star at Michigan ready to make NHL impact. A game-changing pivot who just needs time.
Acquired 5th overall, 2021 **NHL** '22-23

2. David Jiricek, D

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Plzen (Cze.)
Big, bruising defender oozes NHL stalwart. Moves the puck well but lacks scoring flair.
Acquired 6th overall, 2022 **NHL** '24-25

3. Denton Mateychuk, D

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Moose Jaw (WHL)
New-age puck-moving defender plays with bite. His O-zone smarts are a power-play asset.
Acquired 12th overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

4. Kirill Marchenko, RW

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** St. Petersburg (KHL)
Life in the KHL served as good preparation. Big, skilled winger has plenty of offensive tools.
Acquired 49th overall, 2018 **NHL** '22-23

5. Daniil Tarasov, G

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Cleveland (AHL)
Towering, composed keeper commands crease. Minutes are all that's keeping him in AHL.
Acquired 86th overall, 2017 **NHL** '23-24

6. Dmitri Voronkov, C

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Kazan (KHL)
Blue-collar style and serious grit. Big center won't score much, but he'll win hearts.
Acquired 114th overall, 2019 **NHL** '24-25

7. Corson Ceulemans, D

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Wisconsin (Big Ten)
Took great strides throughout freshman season. Confident game, puck-moving skill, good size.
Acquired 25th overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

8. Liam Foudy, C

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Cleveland (AHL)
Speedy center can beat defenders but finishing needs fine-tuning. Still a work in progress.
Acquired 18th overall, 2018 **NHL** '23-24

9. Luca Del Bel Belluz, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Mississauga (OHL)
Multifaceted center can play anywhere and excel. One of OHL's most improved last season.
Acquired 44th overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

10. Stanislav Svozil, D

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Regina (WHL)
Good production, plus interesting combination of skill and snarl. Impressive footwork.
Acquired 69th overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Jet Greaves	21	Cleveland (AHL)	29	12	12	3	2.84	.905
Sergei Ivanov	18	SKA-1946 (Rus Jr.)	26	14	7	4	2.17	.928
Joonas Korpisalo	28	Columbus	22	7	11	0	4.15	.877
Elvis Merzlikins	28	Columbus	59	27	23	7	3.22	.907
Daniil Tarasov	23	Cleveland (AHL)	11	5	3	4	3.06	.893
Peter Thome	25	St. Thomas (CCHA)	29	3	24	1	4.53	.876

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Gavin Bayreuther	28	Columbus	43	0	8	8	22
Jake Bean	24	Columbus	67	7	18	25	26
Ole Bjorgvik-Holm	20	Mississauga (OHL)	54	3	10	13	82
Markus Bjork	24	Brynas (Swe)	52	3	12	15	26
Adam Boqvist	22	Columbus	52	11	11	22	12
Tim Berni	22	Cleveland (AHL)	72	3	12	15	44
Nick Blankenburg	24	Michigan (Big10)	38	14	15	29	22
Corson Ceulemans	19	Wisconsin (Big10)	34	7	15	22	33
Jacob Christiansen	23	Cleveland (AHL)	62	13	32	45	33
Vladislav Gavrikov	26	Columbus	80	5	28	33	68
Erik Gudbranson	30	Calgary	78	6	11	17	68
Eric Hjorth	21	AIK (Swe2)	22	0	4	4	0
Aidan Hreschuk	19	Boston Col. (HE)	37	1	7	8	23
David Jiricek	18	Plzen (Cze)	29	5	6	11	49
Samuel Knazko	20	Seattle (WHL)	27	5	15	20	12
Nikolai Makarov	19	K.A. Moscow (Rus Jr.)	22	4	10	14	12
Denton Mateychuk	18	Moose Jaw (WHL)	65	13	51	64	15
Andrew Peeke	24	Columbus	82	2	13	15	60
Guillaume Richard	19	Providence (HE)	36	3	11	14	26
Robbie Stucker	24	Vermont (HE)	34	4	10	14	12
Stanislav Svozil	19	Regina (WHL)	59	10	31	41	23
Billy Sweezey	26	Cleveland (AHL)	70	4	7	11	114
Zach Werenski	24	Columbus	68	11	37	48	22

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Tyler Angle	22	Cleveland (AHL)	71	11	26	37	32
Emil Bemstrom	23	Columbus	41	6	5	11	4
Ben Boyd	19	Charlottetown (QMJHL)	35	7	3	10	45
Yegor Chinakhov	21	Columbus	62	7	7	14	16
Justin Danforth	29	Columbus	45	10	4	14	10
Luca Del Bel Belluz	18	Mississauga (OHL)	68	30	46	76	28
Trey Fix-Wolansky	23	Cleveland (AHL)	53	15	18	33	59
Liam Foudy	22	Cleveland (AHL)	29	7	12	19	6
Kirill Dolzhenkov	18	K.A. Moscow (Rus Jr.)	33	14	14	28	35
Jordan Dumais	18	Halifax (QMJHL)	68	39	70	109	6
Joshua Dunne	23	Cleveland (AHL)	29	6	5	11	39
James Fisher	18	Belmont Hill (High-MA)	27	17	11	28	N/A
Johnny Gaudreau	29	Calgary	82	40	75	115	64
Brendan Gaunce	28	Cleveland (AHL)	39	16	12	28	28
Boone Jenner	29	Columbus	59	23	21	44	22
Kent Johnson	19	Michigan (Big10)	32	8	29	37	6
Sean Kuraly	29	Columbus	77	14	16	30	61
Patrik Laine	24	Columbus	56	26	30	56	24
Joona Luoto	25	Tappara (Fin)	27	9	5	14	12
Kirill Marchenko	22	St. Petersburg (KHL)	39	12	8	20	13
Carson Meyer	25	Cleveland (AHL)	57	16	11	27	63
James Malatesta	19	Quebec (QMJHL)	68	28	25	53	49
Gustav Nyquist	33	Columbus	82	18	35	53	26
Mathieu Olivier	25	Milwaukee (AHL)	46	5	6	11	76
Mikael Pyyhtia	20	TPS (Fin)	56	21	14	35	6
Peter Quenneville	28	Lausitzer (Ger2)	52	32	48	80	26
Eric Robinson	27	Columbus	67	10	17	27	18
Jack Roslovic	25	Columbus	81	22	23	45	12
Martin Rysavy	19	Moose Jaw (WHL)	45	8	18	26	27
Cole Sillinger	19	Columbus	79	16	15	31	37
Alexandre Tessier	23	Columbus	36	11	9	20	12
Calvin Thurkauf	25	Lugano (Swi)	50	16	19	35	65
Jakub Voracek	33	Columbus	79	6	56	62	44
Dmitri Voronkov	22	Kazan (KHL)	38	7	5	12	36

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																			2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**	**P/GP**	**EVG**	**EVP**	**PPG**	**PPP**	**SHG**	**SHP**	**OTG**	**GWG**	**S**	**S%**	**TOI/GP**	**FOW%**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**
Jakub Voracek	79	6	56	62	-13	44	0.78	4	37	2	25	0	0	1	2	147	4.1	17:28	15.2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Oliver Bjorkstrand	80	28	29	57	-35	16	0.71	19	38	9	19	0	0	0	1	215	13	17:57	43.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Patrik Laine	56	26	30	56	-7	24	1	21	42	5	14	0	0	3	7	167	15.6	18:50	36.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Gustav Nyquist	82	18	35	53	-12	26	0.65	10	39	4	10	4	4	0	0	122	14.8	17:50	46.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Zach Werenski	68	11	37	48	-15	22	0.71	7	33	4	14	0	1	0	2	216	5.1	25:40	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jack Roslovic	81	22	23	45	2	12	0.56	18	38	4	7	0	0	1	4	131	16.8	14:17	43.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Boone Jenner	59	23	21	44	-11	22	0.75	15	34	8	10	0	0	0	3	160	14.4	20:28	53.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Vladislav Gavrikov	80	5	28	33	-3	68	0.41	5	32	0	0	0	1	0	1	108	4.6	22:17	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Max Domi	53	9	23	32	2	37	0.6	9	28	0	4	0	0	0	0	77	11.7	13:25	47.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cole Sillinger	79	16	15	31	-22	37	0.39	16	29	0	2	0	0	0	3	148	10.8	13:42	46.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sean Kuraly	77	14	16	30	2	61	0.39	14	28	0	1	0	1	0	0	121	11.6	15:52	49.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Eric Robinson	67	10	17	27	-1	18	0.4	8	25	0	0	2	2	0	1	104	9.6	13:54	50	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jake Bean	67	7	18	25	-5	26	0.37	7	20	0	4	0	1	2	2	90	7.8	20:34	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Adam Boqvist	52	11	11	22	-11	12	0.42	8	16	3	6	0	0	0	1	64	17.2	17:03	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alexandre Texier	36	11	9	20	0	12	0.56	10	18	0	0	1	2	0	0	59	18.6	14:36	35.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Andrew Peeke	82	2	13	15	-14	60	0.18	2	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	72	2.8	21:29	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Justin Danforth	45	10	4	14	-5	10	0.31	10	13	0	1	0	0	0	1	72	13.9	12:34	53.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yegor Chinakhov	62	7	7	14	-27	16	0.23	6	13	1	1	0	0	0	1	98	7.1	12:30	0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Emil Bemstrom	41	6	5	11	-1	4	0.27	6	11	0	0	0	0	0	1	62	9.7	10:31	50	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dean Kukan	41	3	8	11	-2	16	0.27	3	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	7.3	16:18	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Gabriel Carlsson	38	2	7	9	6	10	0.24	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	11.1	12:16	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Gavin Bayreuther	43	0	8	8	0	22	0.19	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	0	13:03	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brendan Gaunce	30	5	2	7	2	12	0.23	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	11.4	8:06	52.4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Gregory Hofmann	24	2	5	7	6	8	0.29	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	33	6.1	12:30	0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Carson Meyer	13	1	2	3	0	6	0.23	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	7.7	8:14	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nick Blankenburg	7	1	2	3	-3	4	0.43	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	13	7.7	17:34	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kent Johnson	9	0	3	3	2	2	0.33	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	0	12:27	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Trey Fix-Wolansky	6	1	1	2	-1	0	0.33	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	20	6:17	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jake Christiansen	8	1	0	1	1	0	0.13	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	25	9:46	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Scott Harrington	7	0	1	1	-4	6	0.14	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	14:28	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kevin Stenlund	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	7:32	100	--	--	--	--	--	--
Liam Foudy	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	11:51	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**SA**	**SVS**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**
Elvis Merzlikins	59	55	27	23	7	1,920	1,742	178	0.907	3.22	3320:07	2	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Joonas Korpisalo	22	17	7	11	0	634	556	78	0.877	4.15	1128:29	0	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
J-F Berube	6	6	3	2	0	209	188	21	0.9	4.12	305:53	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Daniil Tarasov	4	3	0	2	0	111	104	7	0.937	2.4	174:51	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Wed, Oct 12	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Fri, Oct 14	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 15	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Tue, Oct 18	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 20	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 23	@ NY Rangers	5:00 PM
Tue, Oct 25	vs Arizona	7:00 PM
Fri, Oct 28	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 30	@ New Jersey	2:00 PM
Fri, Nov 4	@ Colorado *	1:00 PM
Sat, Nov 5	vs Colorado *	1:00 PM
Thu, Nov 10	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 12	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Tue, Nov 15	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 20	vs Florida	6:00 PM
Wed, Nov 23	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 25	vs NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 26	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Mon, Nov 28	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 2	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sun, Dec 4	vs Detroit	6:00 PM
Tue, Dec 6	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 7	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 9	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 11	vs Los Angeles	6:00 PM
Tue, Dec 13	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 15	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 17	@ Boston	1:00 PM
Mon, Dec 19	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 20	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 23	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Tue, Dec 27	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 29	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sat, Dec 31	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 3	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 5	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 7	vs Carolina	4:00 PM
Sun, Jan 8	@ Washington	5:00 PM
Tue, Jan 10	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 12	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 14	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 16	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 19	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 23	@ Calgary	9:30 PM
Wed, Jan 25	@ Edmonton	9:30 PM
Fri, Jan 27	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 28	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 31	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 10	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 11	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 14	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 16	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	@ Dallas	6:00 PM
Sun, Feb 19	@ Arizona	8:30 PM
Thu, Feb 23	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 25	vs Edmonton	12:30 PM
Sun, Feb 26	@ Minnesota	2:00 PM
Tue, Feb 28	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 3	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 4	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 7	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 14	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Thu, Mar 16	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Fri, Mar 17	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 19	@ Vegas	4:00 PM
Tue, Mar 21	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 24	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 28	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 30	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 1	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 2	vs Ottawa	6:00 PM
Tue, Apr 4	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 6	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 8	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 11	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM

*Global Series in Finland

BOONE JENNER

PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS

DALLAS STARS

THN PREDICTION | 5TH IN CENTRAL

MIRO HEISKANEN

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY STEPHEN MESERVE

THE STARS CAME close to playing first-round spoiler to Calgary in Game 7 overtime last season. But a Johnny Gaudreau OT-winner meant the Stars still haven't won a post-season round since their improbable run to the Stanley Cup final in the 2020 playoff bubble. Dallas shook things up behind the bench to try and reach those heights again. With the flagging Jamie Benn and Tyler Seguin still signed to big pacts and John Klingberg departing via free agency, Dallas will look to youngsters to help make advances.

Dallas didn't make many big moves in free agency, with left winger Mason Marchment being the most notable addition. New coach Peter DeBoer has an excellent track record in his first year with a new team, taking New Jersey (2012) and San Jose (2016) to the Stanley Cup final. Dallas hopes for a similar trajectory.

>OFFENSE

The trio of Joe Pavelski, Jason Robertson and Roope Hintz formed the offensive core last season, each scoring 70-plus points. Unfortunately, that was often the extent of the scoring, and Dallas became a one-line team. The incoming coaching staff is tasked with sparking the offense. In his last stop in Vegas, DeBoer's club ranked in the top five in league scoring. Dallas has sat near the bottom.

That push for more offense won't be aided by their top-scoring defenseman walking out the door as a UFA. Fur-

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD
46-30-6 (.598)

OVERTIME
10-4

SHOOTOUT
5-2

OVERALL
15th

OFFENSE
2.84 GPG (21st)

DEFENSE
2.98 GAA (14th)

POWER PLAY
22.4% (11th)

PENALTY KILL
79.0% (19th)

CORSI FOR/60
54.39 (18th)

CORSI AGAINST/60
56.58 (21st)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
J. Pavelski (18:28)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
M. Heiskanen (24:53)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Peter DeBoer

GM
Jim Nill

ARENA
American Airlines Center

CAPACITY
18,532

AHL AFFILIATE
Texas Stars

ECHL AFFILIATE
Idaho Steelheads

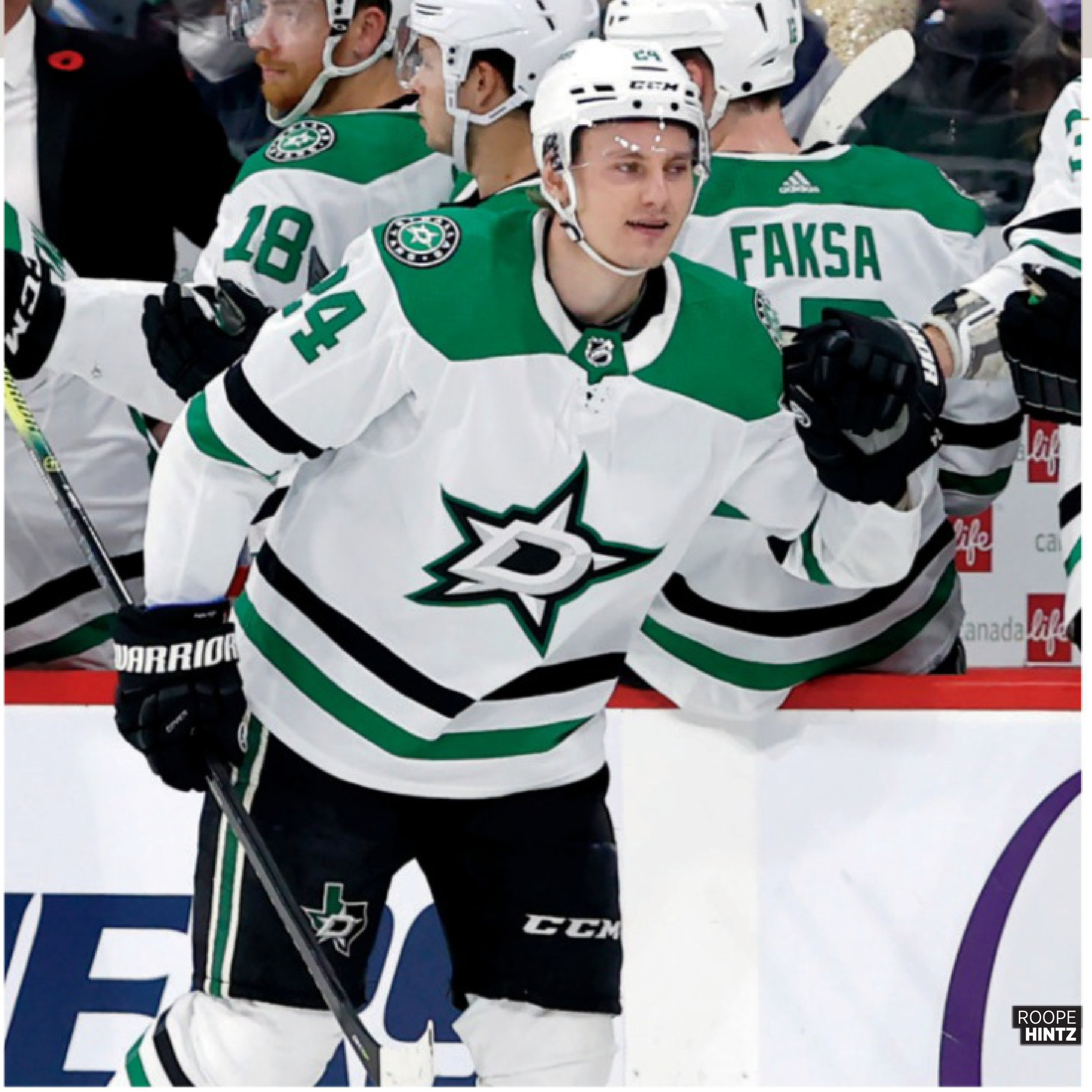
PLAYOFF RECORD
24-20 (since 2018)

ther, there was no splashy signing or trade to replace Klingberg after the Stars lost out on the likes of Brent Burns and Jeff Petry. Instead, Dallas looks to Miro Heiskanen to raise his game again and to the emergence of 2019 first-rounder Thomas Harley as a legitimate top-four blueliner.

>DEFENSE

Dallas has a clear top trio of defensemen, but things get blurry after that. Heiskanen, Esa Lindell and Ryan Suter will be joined by someone new in the top four, likely Harley, but things get dicey if he isn't ready for those minutes.

Right-handed Colin Miller helps shore things up a bit, but he won't be playing top-four minutes, ideally. Jani Hakanpaa will likely pair with Miller, with Joel Hanley in the No. 7 spot. The Stars don't have a pipeline of D-men ready in the minors ready to fill gaps, so they're hoping for good health – and perhaps a little good luck – on the blueline.


ROOPE HINTZ

JAMES CAREY LAUDER-USA TODAY SPORTS

>GOALTENDING

After starting last year with four plausible starters, Dallas is down to one: Jake Oettinger. Following a surprise first-round showing against Calgary, taking the Flames to OT in Game 7, the Stars have strapped their hopes to the 23-year-old. Scott Wedgewood, who ended the year in Dallas off a waiver claim, will be a true backup, not a 1B. Anton Khudobin is in his final contract year but unlikely to play unless injuries strike.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

The departing Klingberg's 20 power-play points led Stars defensemen last season. Suter and Heiskanen each figure to quarterback a PP unit, with the potential for Harley to also earn time. Marchment slots in where Alexander Radulov departed on the top PP unit, and Dallas will also look for Denis Gurianov to earn a power-play role with greater consistency. The Stars' power play ranked 11th last year (22.4 percent), and the penalty kill was 19th (79.0 percent), both solidly mediocre. Improvement will be needed from both sides of the man advantage.

>INTANGIBLES

Dallas is two seasons removed from its visit to the Cup final, but much of that roster remains. The Stars retained most of their leadership group, including an oft-maligned captain in Benn as one of their chief intangibles in the leadership category. Despite the loss of defensive leader Klingberg, Dallas still has Pavelski, newly recommitted on a one-year deal, and Seguin and Suter on long-term pacts.

>ROOKIES

Dallas has a trio of forwards, all of whom were at or near the top of the scoring table in their junior league, pushing for time in the NHL. Mavrik Bourque will make the jump to the pros and could make Dallas' opening roster, but he'll likely start in the AHL. Wyatt Johnston and Logan Stankoven will likely get tryouts but then head back to major junior unless they truly surprise.

CUP ODDS

37/1

>X-FACTOR

Bluntly and directly, this team needs to score more goals. Can DeBoer squeeze more out of a roster that's lost more offense than it gained in the off-season? There is an advantage to novelty, and DeBoer has benefitted from this in prior stops. One early indicator will be Seguin's play. Can he return to his 2018-19 form (80 points in 82 games) or is 50 points his new ceiling?

>THE BRASS

GM Jim Nill let coach Rick Bowness walk after his contract expired, and Nill fired most of the remaining coaching staff. DeBoer takes over the reins and brings along Steve Spott from previous stops in Vegas and San Jose as well as Alain Nasreddine. H

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Jason Robertson	**1.** Roope Hintz	**1.** Joe Pavelski
2. Jamie Benn	**2.** Tyler Seguin	**2.** Denis Gurianov
3. Mason Marchment	**3.** Radek Faksa	**3.** Luke Glendening
4. Marian Studenic	**4.** Jacob Peterson	**4.** Ty Dellandrea
5. Joel Kiviranta	**5.** Tanner Kero	**5.** Riley Barber

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Miro Heiskanen	**6.** Jani Hakanpaa	**1.** Jake Oettinger
2. Esa Lindell	**7.** Joel Hanley	**2.** Scott Wedgewood
3. Ryan Suter	**8.** Will Butcher	**3.** Anton Khudobin
4. Thomas Harley	**9.** Joseph Cecconi	
5. Colin Miller	**10.** Alex Petrovic	

+ INJURED
■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs John Klingberg, D; Vladislav Namestnikov, RW; Alexander Radulov, RW; Andrej Sekera, D; Braden Holtby, G; Michael Raffl, LW

THOMAS
HARLEY

FUTURE WATCH

GIVE CREDIT TO THE Stars' scouts: they picked three of last season's best players in major junior in Mavrik Bourque, Wyatt Johnston (OHL player of the year) and Logan Stankoven (WHL/CHL player of the year). With future offense no concern, Dallas shifted to 'D' in 2022, grabbing blueliners with their first four selections, headlined by Swiss basher Lian Bichsel. Christian Kyrou has offense, while George Fegaras and Gavin White are longer-term projects.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Thomas Harley, D

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Texas (AHL)
More than a cameo with Stars last season, and he's next up. Refining D-zone play the priority.
Acquired 18th overall, 2019 **NHL** '22-23

2. Wyatt Johnston, C

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Windsor (OHL)
Standout scorer marries skating with vision and great release. He'll fight for a spot in camp.
Acquired 23rd overall, 2021 **NHL** '22-23

3. Lian Bichsel, D

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Leksand (Swe.)
A throwback to the pre-lockout era of big, bruising defenders. The difference? His mobility.
Acquired 18th overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

4. Mavrik Bourque, C

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Shawinigan (QMJHL)
Offensively gifted pivot stood out in 2020-21 AHL stint. Solid, versatile and decent skater.
Acquired 30th overall, 2020 **NHL** '23-24

5. Logan Stankoven, C

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Kamloops (WHL)
Smooth skater unafraid of putting body on the line to make plays. Does the little things right.
Acquired 47th overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

6. Christian Kyrou, D

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Erie (OHL)
Thinks pure offense all the time. Defensive play will come with coaching, maturation.
Acquired 50th overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

7. Ty Dellandrea, RW

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Texas (AHL)
Crafty playmaker has rounded out all-around game. Yo-yoing between NHL and AHL.
Acquired 13th overall, 2018 **NHL** '22-23

8. Riley Damiani, C

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Texas (AHL)
Smart scorer would benefit from adding to slight frame. AHL rookie of the year in 2020-21.
Acquired 137th overall, 2018 **NHL** '23-24

9. Daniel Ljungman, C

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Linkoping (Swe.)
Don't expect offensive output from mature, defensive-minded pivot. Very good on the dot.
Acquired 154th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

10. Ayrton Martino, LW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Clarkson (ECAC)
Solid if not stunning production in freshman season. Best attribute is nose for open ice.
Acquired 73rd overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Anton Khudobin	28	Dallas	9	3	4	1	3.63	.879
Maxim Mayorov	18	Togliatti (Rus Jr.)	32	14	10	2	2.16	.931
Jake Oettinger	23	Dallas	48	30	15	1	2.53	.914
Remi Poirier	20	Gatineau (QMJHL)	37	22	7	6	2.48	.907
Adam Scheel	23	Texas (AHL)	31	11	10	11	2.91	.902
Scott Wedgewood	30	NJ/Ari/Dal	37	13	15	6	3.14	.910

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Jack Bar	19	Harvard (ECAC)	30	0	6	6	32
Dawson Barteaux	22	Texas (AHL)	30	1	2	3	10
Lian Bichsel	18	Leksand (Swe)	29	1	2	3	16
Ben Brinkman	21	Minnesota (NCHC)	37	1	7	8	23
Will Butcher	27	Buffalo	37	2	6	8	0
Joseph Cecconi	25	Texas (AHL)	65	1	15	16	52
George Fegaras	18	North York (OJHL)	52	13	35	48	40
Benjamin Gleason	23	Texas (AHL)	70	9	35	44	57
Artem Grushnikov	19	Hamilton (OHL)	56	5	7	12	33
Jani Hakanpaa	30	Dallas	80	4	8	12	43
Joel Hanley	31	Dallas	44	2	4	6	4
Thomas Harley	21	Dallas	34	1	3	4	6
Miro Heiskanen	23	Dallas	70	5	31	36	24
Jacob Holmes	19	SSM/Sby (OHL)	63	7	27	34	26
Christian Kyrou	19	Erie (OHL)	68	18	42	60	44
Esa Lindell	28	Dallas	76	4	21	25	12
Colin Miller	30	Buffalo	38	2	12	14	21
Alex Petrovic	30	Texas (AHL)	71	5	14	19	73
Jerad Rosburg	26	Texas (AHL)	65	4	10	14	83
Ryan Shea	25	Texas (AHL)	66	3	29	32	23
Samuel Sjolund	21	Dubuque (USHL)	56	9	26	35	12
Ryan Suter	37	Dallas	82	7	25	32	40
Gavin White	19	Hamilton (OHL)	66	10	46	56	21

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Francesco Arcuri	19	Kingston (OHL)	66	34	40	74	35
Jamie Benn	33	Dallas	82	18	28	46	88
Mavrik Bourque	20	Shawinigan (QMJHL)	31	20	48	68	30
Oskar Back	22	Texas (AHL)	71	7	18	25	8
Riley Barber	28	Grand Rapids (AHL)	49	28	25	53	24
Matej Blumel	22	Pardubice (Cze)	49	12	12	24	8
Nicholas Caamano	24	Texas (AHL)	47	8	6	14	40
Riley Damiani	22	Texas (AHL)	55	13	23	36	42
Ty Dellandrea	22	Texas (AHL)	68	23	27	50	43
Justin Ertel	19	Cornell (ECAC)	23	1	8	9	10
Radek Faksa	28	Dallas	77	5	14	19	52
Rhett Gardner	26	Texas (AHL)	66	7	9	16	69
Luke Glendening	33	Dallas	82	9	7	16	15
Denis Gurianov	25	Dallas	73	11	20	31	16
Roope Hintz	25	Dallas	80	37	35	72	28
Wyatt Johnston	19	Windsor (OHL)	68	46	78	124	26
Fredrik Karlstrom	24	Texas (AHL)	65	16	13	29	4
Tanner Kero	30	Texas (AHL)	28	5	12	17	10
Joel Kiviranta	26	Dallas	56	1	6	7	10
Daniel Ljungman	20	Linkoping (Swe)	27	2	1	3	4
Mason Marchment	27	Florida	54	18	29	47	53
Ayrton Martino	20	Clarkson (ECAC)	37	7	22	29	8
Adam Mascherin	24	Skelleftea (Swe)	15	7	1	8	27
Fredrik Olofsson	26	Oskarshamn (Swe)	49	15	27	42	6
Joe Pavelski	38	Dallas	82	27	54	81	14
Jacob Peterson	23	Dallas	65	12	5	17	12
Jason Robertson	23	Dallas	74	41	38	79	10
Conner Roulette	19	Seattle (WHL)	65	24	42	66	22
Tyler Seguin	30	Dallas	81	24	25	49	30
Matthew Seminoff	18	Kamloops (WHL)	64	26	31	57	8
Albert Sjoberg	19	Sodertalje (Swe2)	40	10	7	17	14
Logan Stankoven	19	Kamloops (WHL)	59	45	59	104	16
Antonio Stranges	20	London (OHL)	60	31	53	84	6
Marian Studenic	23	NJ/Dal	33	2	2	4	6
Riley Tufte	24	Texas (AHL)	54	10	10	20	36

HARLEY: MOLLIE KENDALL/TEXAS STARS

STATS | 2021-22

2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																				2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**	**P/GP**	**EVG**	**EVP**	**PPG**	**PPP**	**SHG**	**SHP**	**OTG**	**GWG**	**S**	**S%**	**TOI/GP**	**FOW%**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**
Joe Pavelski	82	27	54	81	11	14	0.99	15	56	12	25	0	0	0	2	216	12.5	18:28	52.5	7	3	3	6	2	2
Jason Robertson	74	41	38	79	16	22	1.07	28	58	13	21	0	0	2	11	220	18.6	18:07	--	7	1	3	4	3	0
Roope Hintz	80	37	35	72	15	28	0.90	25	44	9	24	3	4	1	7	213	17.4	18:02	53.0	6	2	2	4	3	2
Tyler Seguin	81	24	25	49	-21	30	0.60	21	36	3	13	0	0	1	2	218	11.0	17:49	56.0	7	2	2	4	0	4
John Klingberg	74	6	41	47	-28	34	0.64	5	27	1	20	0	0	2	2	139	4.3	22:13	--	7	0	1	1	-2	26
Jamie Benn	82	18	28	46	-13	88	0.56	14	34	3	11	1	1	2	2	182	9.9	16:45	55.2	7	1	1	2	1	6
Miro Heiskanen	70	5	31	36	3	24	0.51	2	25	3	11	0	0	1	1	156	3.2	24:53	--	7	1	2	3	0	4
Ryan Suter	82	7	25	32	1	40	0.39	3	19	4	13	0	0	0	0	118	5.9	23:39	--	7	0	3	3	-1	2
Denis Gurianov	73	11	20	31	2	16	0.42	7	24	4	7	0	0	1	2	144	7.6	14:11	--	5	0	0	0	1	0
Esa Lindell	76	4	21	25	4	12	0.33	3	19	0	3	1	3	0	0	136	2.9	22:03	0.0	7	0	2	2	0	0
Alexander Radulov	71	4	18	22	-20	30	0.31	3	14	1	8	0	0	0	2	92	4.4	14:06	45.5	3	0	0	0	-1	0
Radek Faksa	77	5	14	19	-20	52	0.25	3	16	1	1	1	2	0	1	89	5.6	15:46	55.1	7	1	1	2	1	4
Jacob Peterson	65	12	5	17	-1	12	0.26	12	16	0	1	0	0	0	5	85	14.1	11:04	51.3	3	0	0	0	-2	0
Luke Glendening	82	9	7	16	-17	15	0.20	9	14	0	0	0	2	0	1	116	7.8	14:07	58.7	6	0	0	0	-2	2
Michael Raffl	76	7	9	16	-19	16	0.21	6	13	0	0	1	3	0	2	94	7.5	14:32	53.9	7	2	1	3	-1	19
Jani Hakanpaa	80	4	8	12	1	43	0.15	4	11	0	0	0	1	0	0	68	5.9	16:13	--	7	0	2	2	1	4
Joel Kiviranta	56	1	6	7	-6	10	0.13	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	59	1.7	9:31	0.0	7	0	1	1	-2	4
Joel Hanley	44	2	4	6	-13	4	0.14	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	11.1	11:56	--	7	0	0	0	1	0
Vladislav Namestnikov	15	3	2	5	1	11	0.33	3	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	10	30.0	12:20	43.2	7	1	1	2	-3	16
Andrej Sekera	32	1	3	4	-3	16	0.13	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	3.9	13:43	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Thomas Harley	34	1	3	4	-4	6	0.12	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	2.8	13:41	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Marian Studenic	16	1	2	3	-1	6	0.19	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	5.6	10:28	--	4	0	0	0	-3	2
Tanner Kero	23	0	3	3	-5	0	0.13	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0.0	9:34	64.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Riley Damiani	7	1	1	2	0	2	0.29	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10.0	8:32	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Blake Comeau	6	1	0	1	-1	4	0.17	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	50.0	11:28	100.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Riley Tufte	10	1	0	1	0	4	0.10	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	20.0	7:12	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fredrik Karlstrom	3	0	1	1	2	0	0.33	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	6:12	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rhett Gardner	4	0	0	0	-1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	8:06	45.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ty Dellandrea	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	10:37	33.3	1	0	0	0	1	0

2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																	2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**SA**	**SVS**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**
Jake Oettinger	48	46	30	15	1	1,331	1,217	114	.914	2.53	2707:36	1	0	7	7	3	4	285	272	13	.954	1.81	429:49	1	0
Braden Holtby	24	22	10	10	1	700	639	61	.913	2.78	1318:28	0	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Scott Wedgewood	8	7	3	1	3	265	242	23	.913	3.05	452:16	1	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Anton Khudobin	9	7	3	4	1	231	203	28	.879	3.63	462:28	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Thu, Oct 13	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 15	vs Nashville	8:00 PM
Mon, Oct 17	vs Winnipeg	8:30 PM
Thu, Oct 20	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 24	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 25	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 27	vs Washington	8:30 PM
Sat, Oct 29	vs NY Rangers	2:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	vs Los Angeles	8:30 PM
Thu, Nov 3	@ Arizona	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 5	@ Edmonton	4:00 PM
Tue, Nov 8	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Fri, Nov 11	vs San Jose	8:30 PM
Sun, Nov 13	@ Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Tue, Nov 15	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	vs NY Islanders	8:00 PM
Mon, Nov 21	vs Colorado	8:30 PM
Wed, Nov 23	vs Chicago	8:30 PM
Fri, Nov 25	vs Winnipeg	8:30 PM
Sat, Nov 26	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Mon, Nov 28	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 1	vs Anaheim	8:30 PM
Sun, Dec 4	vs Minnesota	3:00 PM
Tue, Dec 6	vs Toronto	8:30 PM
Thu, Dec 8	vs Ottawa	8:30 PM
Sat, Dec 10	vs Detroit	2:00 PM
Mon, Dec 12	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 13	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 15	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 17	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 19	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 21	vs Edmonton	9:30 PM
Fri, Dec 23	vs Montreal	8:30 PM
Tue, Dec 27	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 29	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 31	vs San Jose	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 3	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Wed, Jan 4	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sun, Jan 8	vs Florida	1:00 PM
Tue, Jan 10	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 12	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 14	vs Calgary	2:00 PM
Mon, Jan 16	@ Vegas	6:00 PM
Wed, Jan 18	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Thu, Jan 19	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Sat, Jan 21	vs Arizona	8:00 PM
Mon, Jan 23	vs Buffalo	8:30 PM
Wed, Jan 25	vs Carolina	9:30 PM
Fri, Jan 27	vs New Jersey	8:30 PM
Mon, Feb 6	vs Anaheim	8:30 PM
Wed, Feb 8	vs Minnesota	8:30 PM
Sat, Feb 11	vs Tampa Bay	1:00 PM
Tue, Feb 14	vs Boston	8:30 PM
Fri, Feb 17	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	vs Columbus	6:00 PM
Wed, Feb 22	vs Chicago	7:30 PM
Sat, Feb 25	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Mon, Feb 27	vs Vancouver	8:30 PM
Wed, Mar 1	vs Arizona	8:30 PM
Thu, Mar 2	@ Chicago	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 4	vs Colorado	8:00 PM
Mon, Mar 6	vs Calgary	8:30 PM
Thu, Mar 9	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Mon, Mar 13	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Tue, Mar 14	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 16	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 18	@ Calgary	10:00 PM
Tue, Mar 21	vs Seattle	8:30 PM
Thu, Mar 23	vs Pittsburgh	8:30 PM
Sat, Mar 25	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 28	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Fri, Mar 31	@ Arizona	10:30 PM
Sat, Apr 1	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Mon, Apr 3	vs Nashville	8:30 PM
Thu, Apr 6	vs Philadelphia	8:30 PM
Sat, Apr 8	vs Vegas	8:00 PM
Mon, Apr 10	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Wed, Apr 12	@ St. Louis	7:30 PM
Thu, Apr 13	vs St. Louis	8:30 PM

JASON
ROBERTSON

NICK TURCHIARO-USA TODAY SPORTS

DETROIT RED WINGS

THN PREDICTION | 7TH IN ATLANTIC

MORITZ SEIDER

JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY BOB DUFF

THE EARLY PROMISE that Detroit showed during the 2021-22 NHL season fizzled so badly over the second half of the campaign that it ended up costing coach Jeff Blashill his job. The Red Wings missed the playoffs for the sixth straight year. Detroit GM Steve Yzerman is turning to Derek Lalonde to utilize the winning ways he learned while capturing two Stanley Cups as an assistant coach in Tampa Bay to bring a culture change to Detroit. Yzerman spent heavily in free agency, adding forwards Andrew Copp, David Perron and Dominik Kubalik as well as defensemen Olli Maatta, Ben Chiarot and Robert Hagg. He also traded for goalie Ville Husso.

Detroit needs to improve – vastly – at both ends of the rink. The Wings were 25th in goals per game (2.77) and 31st in goals against per game (3.78). The good news is they'll be a much more competitive team in 2022-23. The bad news is Detroit still won't be a playoff team.

>OFFENSE

Rebounding from a dreadful 2020-21, captain Dylan Larkin led the Wings in scoring. Larkin's 31 goals and 69 points in 71 games were his best outputs since 2018-19. Tyler Bertuzzi also counted 30 tallies. Not initially expected to make the club, rookie Lucas Raymond finished third in goals (23) and points (57).

Detroit, in desperate need of a No. 2 center, inked Copp in July. He had a career-high 21 goals last season and plays with an edge. So does left winger Perron – the six-time 20-goal scorer tallied 27 times for St. Louis last season.

There were solid second-half indications that 2017 first-round pick Michael Rasmussen was figuring out his role. He scored a career-high 15 goals, 11 of which came from February onward. On the back end, Calder Trophy-winning rookie Moritz Seider counted 50 points.

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD
32-40-10 (.451)

OVERTIME
8-8

SHOOTOUT
3-2

OVERALL
25th

OFFENSE
2.77 GPG (25th)

DEFENSE
3.78 GAA (31st)

POWER PLAY
16.3% (26th)

PENALTY KILL
73.8% (32nd)

CORSI FOR/60
49.81 (30th)

CORSI AGAINST/60
58.16 (24th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
T. Bertuzzi (19:52)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
M. Seider (23:02)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Derek Lalonde

GM
Steve Yzerman

ARENA
Little Caesars Arena

CAPACITY
19,515

AHL AFFILIATE
Grand Rapids Griffins

ECHL AFFILIATE
Toledo Walleye

PLAYOFF RECORD
0-0 (since 2018)

DEFENSE

The conversation begins and ends with Seider. Detroit's first Calder winner since 1964-65 was even better than advertised. He led NHL rookie D-men in almost every category, collected 50 points, brought a physical presence, played in all situations and was Detroit's best defender. After that, though, it was all kinds of bad news. The games of Filip Hronek and Gustav Lindstrom regressed after promising 2020-21 campaigns, while Jordan Oesterle and Jake Walman made it abundantly clear that they will never be more than depth defensemen.

The Red Wings retooled their defense, signing veteran UFAs Maatta and Chiarot. Both figure to be top-four stalwarts. There's also the hope that rookie Simon Edvinsson, Detroit's sixth-overall pick in 2021, will become Seider 2.0.

ALEX NEDELJKOVIC
& DYLAN LARKIN

BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS

GOALTENDING

The Wings rolled the dice last season that Alex Nedeljkovic, coming off a superb rookie year in Carolina, could carry the load as a No. 1 netminder. Nedeljkovic displayed flashes of brilliance but was also wildly inconsistent during his first full NHL campaign. This season, Detroit is again hoping that Husso, acquired from St. Louis after a career year, isn't merely a one-season wonder. The thinking is that the club can balance the load between the two goaltenders.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Detroit's special-teams play has been consistent, but not in a good way. Over the past three seasons, the Wings' average placing among all NHL teams on both the power play and the penalty kill is 28th. Alex Tanguay was brought in as an assistant coach to boost the power play last season, and the Wings made a slight jump from 30th in the league (11.4 percent) to 26th (16.3 percent). Rookies Seider (21 PP points) and Raymond (18) led the way in power-play scoring. On the penalty kill, Detroit was last overall at 73.8 percent. It was the club's second last-place PK finish in three seasons.

INTANGIBLES

The Red Wings counted heavily on Sam Gagner and Marc Staal to provide leadership and veteran guidance last season. Neither was re-signed to a new deal. In fact, both of last season's alternate captains – Staal and Danny DeKeyser – were allowed to walk as UFAs. While there's no questioning the leadership of captain Larkin, it will be interesting to see which players wear an 'A' this season and are designated to be the lieutenants in terms of guiding the team's young core.

ROOKIES

The production that Detroit got out of Raymond and Seider is the exception to the rule when it comes to first-year NHL players. That being said, there's tremendous hope that Edvinsson can make a similar impact on the blueline. He's got a massive frame, moves the puck well and is silky-smooth on his blades.

CUP ODDS

61/1

X-FACTOR

The addition of players such as Copp, Chiarot and Perron was done with one mission in mind – to make the Wings harder to play against. Detroit lacked physical size across the roster and struggled to compete against teams capable of playing a heavy game.

THE BRASS

When the team went into a second-half tailspin and simply couldn't play anything resembling competent defense, Yzerman saw no choice but to replace Blashill after seven seasons behind the bench. In Lalonde, Yzerman is going with someone he knows – Lalonde was hired in Tampa Bay when 'Stevie Y' was still there.

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Lucas Raymond	1. Dylan Larkin	1. Tyler Bertuzzi
2. Jakub Vrana	2. Andrew Copp	2. David Perron
3. Dominik Kubalik	3. Pius Suter	3. Filip Zadina
4. Adam Erne	4. Michael Rasmussen	4. Oskar Sundqvist
5. Robby Fabbri ✚	5. Joe Veleno	5. Givani Smith

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Moritz Seider	6. Gustav Lindstrom	1. Ville Husso
2. Ben Chiarot	7. Jordan Oesterle	2. Alex Nedeljkovic
3. Filip Hronek	8. Robert Hagg	3. Jussi Olkinuora
4. Olli Maatta	9. Jake Walman ✚	✚ INJURED
5. Simon Edvinsson	10. Mark Pysyk ✚	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Marc Staal, D; Sam Gagner, RW; Thomas Greiss, G; Danny DeKeyser, D; Carter Rowney, RW; Mitchell Stephens, C; Olli Juolevi, D

SIMON
EDVINSSON

FUTURE WATCH

EVERYONE KNOWS THE RED Wings have been piling up assets lately, but perhaps the most validating development is the fact some mid-rounders – winger Carter Mazur and D-man Donovan Sebrango – have outplayed their draft slots already. The Wings could still use a high-skill center, but with building blocks such as Simon Edvinsson, Sebastian Cossa and Marco Kasper joining Lucas Raymond and Moritz Seider in the coming years, things are looking up.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Simon Edvinsson, D

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Frolunda (Swe.)

Total-package defender is fawned over by scouts. NHL-bound sooner rather than later.

Acquired 6th overall, 2021 **NHL** '22-23

2. Marco Kasper, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Rogle (Swe.)

Two-way pivot will do what it takes to win. Can score, but some question his offensive ceiling.

Acquired 8th overall, 2022 **NHL** '24-25

3. Sebastian Cossa, G

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Edmonton (WHL)

It's not just size. It's movement and athleticism, too. Backstopped Oil Kings to WHL crown.

Acquired 15th overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

4. Jonatan Berggren, RW

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Grand Rapids (AHL)

Executed excellently and adjusted his game well to North American style. A year away.

Acquired 33rd overall, 2018 **NHL** '23-24

5. Dylan James, LW

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Sioux City (USHL)

Dogged winger will throw his weight around and get to hard areas. Nothing fancy about him.

Acquired 40th overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

6. Theo Niederbach, C

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Frolunda (Swe.)

Slick pivot able to slow the game down to find plays. Route to NHL might be on wing.

Acquired 51st overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

7. Dmitri Buchelnikov, LW

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** SKA-1946 Jr. (Rus.)

Speedy, undersized winger with a terrific release. Ready for the next level – KHL.

Acquired 52nd overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

8. Eemil Viro, D

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** TPS (Fin.)

Rarely stands out – a compliment for a smart, solid defender. Already a top-four 'D' in Finland.

Acquired 70th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

9. Shai Buium, D

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Denver (NCHC)

Consistently picks a great first pass and displays great vision. Second-round steal potential.

Acquired 36th overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

10. William Wallinder, D

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Rogle (Swe.)

Skates well, distributes better and is steadily improving. Playing top-pair minutes in Sweden.

Acquired 32nd overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Jan Bednar	20	Acadie-Bath. (QMJHL)	47	28	18	4	2.72	.912
Victor Brattstrom	25	Grand Rapids (AHL)	32	11	16	4	3.32	.894
Sebastian Cossa	20	Edmonton (WHL)	46	33	9	3	2.28	.913
Carter Gylander	21	Colgate (ECAC)	16	7	8	0	2.76	.908
Ville Husso	27	St. Louis	40	25	7	6	2.56	.919
Alex Nedeljkovic	26	Detroit	59	20	24	9	3.31	.901
Jussi Olkinuora	31	Magnitogorsk (KHL)	36	20	10	2	2.45	.917
Joren van Pottelberghe	25	Biel-Bienne (Swi)	44	24	12	3	2.23	.921

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Kyle Aucoin	20	Harvard (ECAC)	30	0	2	2	10
Seth Barton	23	Grand Rapids (AHL)	20	1	5	6	4
Gustav Berglund	21	Mora (Swe2)	10	2	1	3	2
Shai Buium	19	Denver (NCHC)	39	3	15	18	12
Ben Chiarot	31	Mtl/Fla	74	9	17	26	48
Simon Edvinsson	19	Frolunda (Swe)	44	2	17	19	18
Robert Hagg	27	Buf/Fla	64	1	8	9	35
Filip Hronek	24	Detroit	78	5	33	38	36
Albert Johansson	21	Farjestad (Swe)	52	5	20	25	24
Anton Johansson	18	Leskand (Swe Jr.)	22	6	4	10	12
Steven Kampfer	34	Kazan (KHL)	46	11	19	30	49
Gustav Lindstrom	23	Detroit	63	1	12	13	22
Olli Maatta	28	Los Angeles	66	1	7	8	10
Tnias Mathurin	18	North Bay (OHL)	44	3	12	15	26
Jared McIsaac	22	Grand Rapids (AHL)	70	5	19	24	34
Cooper Moore	21	North Dakota (NCHC)	38	2	7	9	49
Wyatt Newpower	24	Grand Rapids (AHL)	55	3	7	10	54
Jordan Oesterle	30	Detroit	45	2	6	8	4
Oscar Plandowski	19	Charlottetown (QMJHL)	64	4	13	17	39
Mark Pysyk	30	Buffalo	68	3	9	12	16
Donovan Sebrango	20	Grand Rapids (AHL)	65	1	6	7	23
Moritz Seider	21	Detroit	82	7	43	50	34
Antti Tuomisto	21	Denver (NCHC)	35	1	8	9	21
Eemil Viro	20	TPS (Fin)	52	3	4	7	55
William Wallinder	20	Rogle (Swe)	47	4	15	19	6
Jake Walman	26	StL/Det	51	3	7	10	10

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
John Adams	25	Notre Dame (Big10)	38	6	10	16	8
Brennan Ali	18	Old Avon Farms (High-CT)	27	15	19	34	N/A
Pontus Andreasson	24	Lulea (Swe)	52	18	20	38	22
Jonatan Berggren	22	Grand Rapids (AHL)	70	21	43	64	24
Tyler Bertuzzi	27	Acadie-Bath. (QMJHL)	68	30	32	62	47
Chase Bradley	20	Connecticut (HE)	29	4	5	9	14
Dmitri Buchelnikov	19	SKA-1946 (Rus Jr.)	56	41	34	75	22
Andrew Copp	28	Wpg/NYR	72	21	32	53	16
Kyle Criscuolo	30	Grand Rapids (AHL)	57	15	24	39	18
Austin Czarnik	29	Bridgeport (AHL)	38	14	23	37	8
Liam Dower Nilsson	19	Frolunda (Swe Jr.)	34	19	31	50	72
Kienan Draper	20	Chilliwack (BCHL)	53	23	27	50	40
Adam Erne	27	Detroit	79	6	13	19	34
Robby Fabbri	26	Detroit	56	17	13	30	35
Albin Grewe	21	Mora (Swe2)	32	4	13	17	40
Cross Hanas	20	Portland (WHL)	63	26	60	86	73
Taro Hirose	26	Grand Rapids (AHL)	59	15	38	53	12
Dylan James	18	Sioux City (USHL)	62	28	33	61	39
Alexander Kadeykin	18	Ufa (KHL)	43	11	20	31	18
Marco Kasper	18	Rogle (Swe)	46	7	4	11	17
Maximilian Kilpinen	18	Orebro (Swe Jr.)	27	14	11	25	0
Dominik Kubalik	27	Chicago	78	15	17	32	16
Dylan Larkin	26	Detroit	71	31	38	69	47
Amadeus Lombardi	19	Flint (OHL)	67	18	41	59	24
Matt Luff	25	Milwaukee (AHL)	30	14	17	31	16
Robert Mastrosimone	21	Boston Univ. (HE)	34	11	14	25	28
Carter Mazur	20	Denver (NCHC)	41	14	24	38	44
Owen Mehlenbacher	18	Muskegon (USHL)	56	17	25	42	56
Theodor Niederbach	20	Frolunda (Swe)	51	9	7	16	12
Ryan O'Reilly	22	Arizona St. (NCAA)	31	6	5	11	4
Chase Pearson	25	Grand Rapids (AHL)	50	7	11	18	18
David Perron	34	St. Louis	67	27	30	57	48
Ethan Phillips	21	Boston Univ. (HE)	28	6	11	17	12
Michael Rasmussen	23	Detroit	80	15	12	27	66
Lucas Raymond	20	Detroit	82	23	34	57	16
Redmond Savage	19	Miami-Ohio (NCHC)	35	6	10	16	43
Givani Smith	24	Detroit	46	4	3	7	108
Elmer Soderblom	21	Frolunda (Swe)	52	21	12	33	10
Sam Stange	21	Wisconsin (Big10)	37	4	7	11	6
Oskar Sundqvist	28	StL/Det	59	18	15	33	29
Pius Suter	26	Detroit	82	15	21	36	22
Kirill Tyutyayev	22	Grand Rapids (AHL)	9	0	3	3	4
Joe Veleno	22	Detroit	66	8	7	15	22
Jakub Vrana	26	Detroit	26	13	6	19	16
Filip Zadina	22	Detroit	74	10	14	24	10
Pasquale Zito	19	Windsor (OHL)	49	22	20	42	41

EDVINSSON: RYAN MCCULLOUGH/HHOF-IIHF IMAGES

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																		2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	P/GP	EVG	EVP	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	OTG	GWG	S	S%	TOI/GP	FOW%	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM
Dylan Larkin	71	31	38	69	-18	47	0.97	25	55	6	13	0	1	3	4	212	14.6	19:39	52.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tyler Bertuzzi	68	30	32	62	-11	47	0.91	23	46	6	14	1	2	0	5	180	16.7	19:52	26.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lucas Raymond	82	23	34	57	-32	16	0.70	18	39	5	18	0	0	2	2	184	12.5	18:09	38.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Moritz Seider	82	7	43	50	-9	34	0.61	5	27	2	21	0	2	2	4	187	3.7	23:02	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Filip Hronek	78	5	33	38	-29	36	0.49	3	31	2	7	0	0	0	0	133	3.8	22:02	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pius Suter	82	15	21	36	-11	22	0.44	14	32	0	3	1	1	0	3	166	9.0	16:55	49.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sam Gagner	81	13	18	31	-4	32	0.38	12	29	0	1	1	1	0	0	132	9.9	13:37	46.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Robby Fabbri	56	17	13	30	-23	35	0.54	11	22	6	8	0	0	0	1	123	13.8	17:20	49.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Michael Rasmussen	80	15	12	27	-25	66	0.34	15	25	0	2	0	0	0	2	128	11.7	14:31	50.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Vladislav Namestnikov	60	13	12	25	1	34	0.42	12	24	0	0	1	1	0	0	81	16.1	15:14	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Filip Zadina	74	10	14	24	-24	10	0.32	6	16	4	8	0	0	0	1	154	6.5	14:11	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jakub Vrana	26	13	6	19	-8	16	0.73	8	13	5	6	0	0	0	3	65	20.0	14:56	33.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Adam Erne	79	6	13	19	-22	34	0.24	6	19	0	0	0	0	0	1	108	5.6	13:23	52.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Marc Staal	71	3	13	16	-1	28	0.23	3	16	0	0	0	0	0	1	76	4.0	17:25	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nick Leddy	55	1	15	16	-33	16	0.29	1	11	0	5	0	0	0	0	52	1.9	21:33	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Joe Veleno	66	8	7	15	-14	22	0.23	8	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	73	11.0	13:13	48.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Gustav Lindstrom	63	1	12	13	-12	22	0.21	1	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	2.4	16:07	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Danny DeKeyser	59	0	11	11	-8	26	0.19	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	0.0	18:30	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Oskar Sundqvist	18	4	4	8	1	17	0.44	4	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	20	20.0	15:28	27.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jordan Oesterle	45	2	6	8	-7	4	0.18	2	8	0	0	0	0	1	1	63	3.2	18:17	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Givani Smith	46	4	3	7	-6	108	0.15	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	8.0	8:28	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Carter Rowney	26	4	2	6	-4	0	0.23	4	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	15	26.7	10:40	44.9	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mitchell Stephens	27	0	6	6	-8	8	0.22	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0.0	11:11	49.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Taro Hirose	15	1	3	4	-5	4	0.27	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	10	10.0	10:40	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jake Walman	19	0	4	4	-6	4	0.21	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	39	0.0	17:28	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Troy Stecher	16	1	1	2	-6	9	0.13	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	4.4	15:08	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kyle Criscuolo	6	0	2	2	1	2	0.33	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.0	9:33	30.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Gemel Smith	3	0	1	1	-2	5	0.33	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	6:46	60.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Luke Witkowski	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	9:18	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Turner Elson	2	0	0	0	-1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	13:23	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Riley Barber	4	0	0	0	-2	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.0	8:27	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Chase Pearson	3	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	6:45	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dan Renouf	4	0	0	0	-2	7	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0	14:00	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Olli Juolevi	8	0	0	0	-1	4	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.0	13:08	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	GP	GS	W	L	OT	SA	SVS	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO	G	A	P	PIM	GP	GS	W	L	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO
Alex Nedeljkovic	59	52	20	24	9	1,796	1,618	178	.901	3.31	3230:48	4	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Thomas Greiss	31	28	10	15	1	842	750	92	.891	3.66	1507:44	0	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Calvin Pickard	3	1	1	1	0	72	63	9	.875	4.30	125:38	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Magnus Hellberg	1	1	1	0	0	23	20	3	.870	3.00	60:00	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Fri, Oct 14	vs Montreal	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 15	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 17	vs Los Angeles	7:30 PM
Fri, Oct 21	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Sun, Oct 23	vs Anaheim	5:00 PM
Tue, Oct 25	vs New Jersey	7:30 PM
Thu, Oct 27	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 29	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 31	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 3	vs Washington	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 5	vs NY Islanders	1:00 PM
Sun, Nov 6	@ NY Rangers	5:00 PM
Tue, Nov 8	vs Montreal	7:30 PM
Thu, Nov 10	vs NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 12	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Tue, Nov 15	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sat, Nov 19	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 23	vs Nashville	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 25	vs Arizona	7:30 PM
Mon, Nov 28	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 30	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 3	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 4	@ Columbus	6:00 PM
Tue, Dec 6	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 8	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 10	@ Dallas	2:00 PM
Tue, Dec 13	vs Carolina	7:30 PM
Wed, Dec 14	@ Minnesota	7:30 PM
Sat, Dec 17	vs Ottawa	1:00 PM
Mon, Dec 19	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 21	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 23	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 28	@ Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
Thu, Dec 29	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 31	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Wed, Jan 4	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 6	vs Florida	7:30 PM
Sat, Jan 7	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 10	vs Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 12	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 14	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 16	@ Colorado	3:00 PM
Tue, Jan 17	@ Arizona	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 19	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 24	vs San Jose	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 26	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 27	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 7	vs Edmonton	7:30 PM
Thu, Feb 9	vs Calgary	7:30 PM
Sat, Feb 11	vs Vancouver	12:00 PM
Mon, Feb 13	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Wed, Feb 15	@ Edmonton	9:30 PM
Thu, Feb 16	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	@ Seattle	10:30 PM
Tue, Feb 21	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 23	vs NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Sat, Feb 25	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 28	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 2	vs Seattle	7:30 PM
Sat, Mar 4	@ NY Islanders	12:30 PM
Sun, Mar 5	@ Philadelphia	6:00 PM
Wed, Mar 8	vs Chicago	7:30 PM
Sat, Mar 11	@ Boston	1:00 PM
Sun, Mar 12	vs Boston	1:00 PM
Tue, Mar 14	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 18	vs Colorado	1:00 PM
Mon, Mar 20	vs Florida	7:30 PM
Tue, Mar 21	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 23	vs St. Louis	7:30 PM
Sat, Mar 25	@ Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Tue, Mar 28	vs Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
Thu, Mar 30	vs Carolina	7:30 PM
Fri, Mar 31	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sun, Apr 2	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 4	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 6	vs Buffalo	7:30 PM
Sat, Apr 8	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Mon, Apr 10	vs Dallas	7:30 PM
Tue, Apr 11	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM

LUCAS RAYMOND

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

EDMONTON OILERS

THN PREDICTION | 1ST IN PACIFIC

CONNOR MCDAVID

PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD
49-27-6 (.634)

OVERTIME
6-5

SHOOTOUT
5-1

OVERALL
11th

OFFENSE
3.48 GPG (7th)

DEFENSE
3.06 GAA (18th)

POWER PLAY
26.0% (3rd)

PENALTY KILL
79.4% (17th)

CORSI FOR/60
59.45 (8th)

CORSI AGAINST/60
53.87 (11th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
L. Draisaitl (22:21)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
D. Nurse (25:03)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Jay Woodcroft

GM
Ken Holland

ARENA
Rogers Place

CAPACITY
18,641

AHL AFFILIATE
Bakersfield Condors

ECHL AFFILIATE
Fort Wayne Komets

PLAYOFF RECORD
9-15 (since 2018)

BY ROB TYCHKOWSKI

AFTER BACK-TO-BACK first-round exits in the playoffs, the Oilers finally broke through by advancing to the Western Conference final last season and believe they are now, at long last, in their Stanley Cup window. Adding Zach Hyman last summer and Evander Kane in January had a huge impact that saw with both players mesh brilliantly with Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl. New coach Jay Woodcroft, who replaced Dave Tippett in February, added a dimension that lifted the Oilers from 10th place in the West to a final-four team in the playoffs.

It's tough at the top, however, and as much as the Oilers improved over previous post-seasons, it still wasn't good enough. They were swept in the third round by the eventual-champion Colorado Avalanche. Improving on their best showing since 2005-06 will be a challenge, but the Oilers hope that re-signing Kane to a four-year contract and landing a starting goalie in Jack Campbell are two big steps in the right direction.

>OFFENSE

Scoring isn't usually a problem for a team with McDavid and Draisaitl and one of the best power plays in the league. But, instead of being a two-man show, the Oilers have legitimate depth after Hyman scored a career-high 27 goals and Kane delivered 35 goals in 58 combined regular-season and playoff games.

There is a bit of a drop-off after that, though. The top four scored 148 of Edmonton's 285 goals last year, and

LEON
DRAISAITL

the right side of the top six (with Kailer Yamamoto and Jesse Puljujarvi last year) needs to be bolstered, as does the third-line offense. Evan Bouchard is an emerging threat on defense, racking up 43 points in his first full NHL season.

>DEFENSE

The blueline has been hit hard by key departures over the past couple of years with Oscar Klefbom (injury), Adam Larsson (free agency) and Duncan Keith (retirement) plucked from the top four. The Oilers still have a good base with Darnell Nurse and Cody Ceci anchoring the top pair and Bouchard poised to take another step forward, but it's not a Stanley Cup-caliber blueline as it stands.

Management will need to add a veteran presence before the playoffs. They're also waiting to see if one of the prospect D-men – such as Philip Broberg, Markus Niemelainen, Dmitri Samorukov or Vincent Desharnais – can step in and help fill the void.

>GOALTENDING

With Mike Smith on long-term injured reserve and Mikko Koskinen back in Europe, it's an entirely new look in the crease this year. The Oilers locked up former Toronto starter Campbell for five years at $5 million per season and will turn to homegrown Stuart Skinner, a third-round pick in 2017, as the backup. The team hopes this will finally shore up an area of inconsistency, but Campbell showed last year he can run hot and cold, and Skinner is unproven over the long haul at the NHL level.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

The power play has been one of Edmonton's best weapons for years, consistently ranking among the most effective units in the NHL. It's been largely unchanged over that time, with McDavid, Draisaitl and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins at the heart of it and Hyman fitting in seamlessly. Tyson Barrie worked the blueline for the past two seasons, but he might give way to the emerging Bouchard. The Oilers' penalty killing wobbled last year, falling to 17th after placing ninth and second overall in the previous two seasons. But the PK unit finished strong, killing 47 of 51 man-down situations over the final 17 games.

>INTANGIBLES

Going three rounds deep in the playoffs provided invaluable experience while also revealing a side of the Oilers we'd never seen before – a gritty, resilient, battle-tested group that can thrive in post-season hockey. The team saw what it's capable of and has established that level of determination and work ethic as the new standard, starting at the top with McDavid and Draisaitl.

>ROOKIES

Rookies could factor in all three areas of the ice this year, with left winger Dylan Holloway (drafted 14th overall in 2020) expected to make the team out of training camp. Skinner is already penciled in as the backup, and there's room for a prospect defenseman to make the jump to full-time NHLer.

>X-FACTOR

Campbell's ability to provide Edmonton with consistent, high-end goaltending will be at the heart of the Oilers' season. At his best, Campbell can get them where they need to be. But if he isn't who they think he is, the organization will be thrust into scramble mode.

>THE BRASS

The players responded extremely well when Woodcroft took over. His program of preparation and accountability resulted in an immediate buy-in. The Oilers became tighter and harder to play against without sacrificing any offense. This will be his first full season at the helm, so we'll see if things carry over.

CUP ODDS

11/1

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Evander Kane	**1.** Connor McDavid	**1.** Kailer Yamamoto
2. Zach Hyman	**2.** Leon Draisaitl	**2.** Jesse Puljujarvi
3. Warren Foegele	**3.** Ryan Nugent-Hopkins	**3.** Derek Ryan
4. Mattias Janmark	**4.** Ryan McLeod	**4.** Devin Shore
5. Dylan Holloway	**5.** Greg McKegg	**5.** Seth Griffith
DEFENSE		**GOALIE**
1. Darnell Nurse	**6.** Philip Broberg	**1.** Jack Campbell
2. Cody Ceci	**7.** Slater Koekkoek	**2.** Stuart Skinner
3. Evan Bouchard	**8.** Markus Niemelainen	**3.** Calvin Pickard
4. Brett Kulak	**9.** Dmitri Samorukov	✚ INJURED
5. Tyson Barrie	**10.** Vincent Desharnais	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Duncan Keith, D; Mikko Koskinen, G; Zack Kassian, RW; Kyle Turris, RW; Kris Russell, D; Derick Brassard, C; Josh Archibald, RW

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

DYLAN HOLLOWAY

FUTURE WATCH

BASED ON WHERE THE NHL team is right now, the main job for Edmonton's prospects is to make the jump and support the main cast. Dylan Holloway and Philip Broberg are the top two candidates to do so this fall, while it's hard to ignore what scorers such as Carter Savoie and Xavier Bourgault have accomplished in developmental leagues. The Oilers had a quiet 2022 draft with just four selections, but big Reid Schaefer is a budding power forward.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Dylan Holloway, C

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Bakersfield (AHL)

Complete winger with plenty of offensive upside. Injuries limited his reps last season.

Acquired 14th overall, 2020 **NHL** '22-23

2. Philip Broberg, D

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Bakersfield (AHL)

Past scoring hasn't come, but his game has otherwise translated well. Ready for NHL test.

Acquired 8th overall, 2019 **NHL** '22-23

3. Xavier Bourgault, RW

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Shawinigan (QMJHL)

Well-rounded production catches eye, but defensive smarts are key to game. A puck hound.

Acquired 22nd overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

4. Reid Schaefer, LW

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Seattle (WHL)

Good luck stopping him when he dips his shoulder and drives the net. Skating does need work.

Acquired 32nd overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

5. Raphael Lavoie, C

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Bakersfield (AHL)

Started slow as AHL rookie but gained confidence and lit lamp. Consistent performer.

Acquired 38th overall, 2019 **NHL** '23-24

6. Carter Savoie, LW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Denver (NCHC)

Possesses sixth sense on the attack and NHL-ready shot. Helped Denver to NCAA title.

Acquired 100th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

7. Dmitri Samorukov, D

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Bakersfield (AHL)

Safe and sound blueliner takes few risks with the puck. Saw one game with Oilers last season.

Acquired 84th overall, 2017 **NHL** '23-24

8. Matvey Petrov, LW

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** North Bay (OHL)

Lethal shooter will shoot and can score from anywhere. His 40-goal OHL debut is proof.

Acquired 180th overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

9. Tyler Tullio, RW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Oshawa (OHL)

Solid offensive numbers, but he doesn't sacrifice defense. Played in Slovakia in 2020-21.

Acquired 126th overall, 2020 **NHL** '25-26

10. Stuart Skinner, G

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Bakersfield (AHL)

All the tools to be NHL netminder. Acquitted himself well in 13 games with Oilers last season.

Acquired 78th overall, 2017 **NHL** '22-23

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Jack Campbell	30	Toronto	49	31	9	6	2.64	.914
Ryan Fanti	22	Minn.-Duluth (NCHC)	37	20	12	4	1.83	.929
Samuel Jonsson	18	Brynas (Swe Jr.)	31	9	20	0	3.25	.883
Calvin Pickard	30	Grand Rapids (AHL)	43	21	16	6	2.58	.918
Olivier Rodrigue	22	Wichita (ECHL)	15	7	7	1	3.57	.907
Stuart Skinner	25	Bakersfield (AHL)	35	22	7	7	2.21	.920
Mike Smith	40	Edmonton	28	16	9	2	2.81	.915

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Tyson Barrie	31	Edmonton	73	7	34	41	18
Evan Bouchard	22	Edmonton	81	12	31	43	28
Philip Broberg	21	Bakersfield (AHL)	31	4	19	23	18
Cody Ceci	28	Edmonton	78	5	23	28	14
Vincent Desharnais	26	Bakersfield (AHL)	66	5	22	27	55
Philip Kemp	23	Bakersfield (AHL)	55	3	6	9	21
Michael Kesselring	22	Bakersfield (AHL)	55	2	11	13	45
Oscar Klefbom	29	Edmonton	INJURED - DID NOT PLAY				
Slater Koekkoek	28	Edmonton	19	0	4	4	16
Brett Kulak	28	Mtl/Edm	74	5	16	21	45
Luca Munzenberger	19	Leskand (Swe Jr.)	32	0	3	3	45
Markus Niemelainen	24	Bakersfield (AHL)	34	2	6	8	12
Darnell Nurse	27	Edmonton	71	9	26	35	54
Dmitri Samorukov	23	Bakersfield (AHL)	51	3	15	18	44
Maximus Wanner	19	Moose Jaw (WHL)	55	6	17	23	53
Nikita Yevseyev	18	Kazan (Rus2)	37	2	3	5	10

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Tyler Benson	24	Edmonton	29	1	1	2	18
Maxim Beryozkin	20	Yaroslavl (KHL)	30	1	1	2	6
Xavier Bourgault	19	Shawinigan (QMJHL)	43	36	39	75	20
Skyler Brind'Amour	23	Quinnipiac (ECAC)	41	3	17	20	18
Jake Chiasson	19	Brandon (WHL)	20	6	12	18	4
Maxim Denezhkin	21	Togliatti (Rus2)	48	15	21	36	37
Leon Draisaitl	25	Edmonton	80	55	55	110	40
Filip Engaras	23	New Hampshire (HE)	33	7	14	21	16
Seth Griffith	29	Bakersfield (AHL)	64	30	50	80	54
Warren Foegele	26	Edmonton	82	12	14	26	24
James Hamblin	23	Bakersfield (AHL)	64	21	14	35	28
Dylan Holloway	20	Bakersfield (AHL)	33	8	14	22	16
Zach Hyman	30	Edmonton	76	27	27	54	36
Mattias Janmark	30	Vegas	67	9	16	25	21
Evander Kane	31	Edmonton	43	22	17	39	60
Shane Lachance	19	Youngstown (USHL)	55	11	12	23	67
Raphael Lavoie	21	Bakersfield (AHL)	56	13	13	26	14
Jeremias Lindewall	20	MoDo (Swe)	37	0	4	4	2
Joel Maatta	20	Vermont (HE)	32	3	3	6	16
Brad Malone	33	Bakersfield (AHL)	52	14	25	39	65
Tomas Mazura	22	Providence (HE)	8	1	1	2	2
Connor McDavid	25	Edmonton	80	44	79	123	45
Greg McKegg	30	NY Rangers	43	2	3	5	6
Ryan McLeod	23	Edmonton	71	9	12	21	12
Ryan Nugent-Hopkins	29	Edmonton	63	11	39	50	16
Matvey Petrov	19	North Bay (OHL)	63	40	50	90	28
Noah Philp	24	Alberta (USports)	8	8	3	11	2
Jesse Puljujarvi	24	Edmonton	65	14	22	36	20
Derek Ryan	35	Edmonton	75	10	12	22	8
Carter Savoie	20	Denver (NCHC)	39	23	22	45	37
Reid Schaefer	19	Seattle (WHL)	66	32	26	58	88
Devin Shore	28	Edmonton	49	5	6	11	10
Tyler Tullio	20	Oshawa (OHL)	65	42	44	86	62
Kailer Yamamoto	24	Edmonton	81	20	21	41	40

DARNELL NURSE

HOLLOWAY: PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS; NURSE: ERIC HARTLINE-USA TODAY SPORTS

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																			2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**	**P/GP**	**EVG**	**EVP**	**PPG**	**PPP**	**SHG**	**SHP**	**OTG**	**GWG**	**S**	**S%**	**TOI/GP**	**FOW%**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**
Connor McDavid	80	44	79	123	28	45	1.54	34	78	10	44	0	1	4	9	314	14.0	22:04	53.7	16	10	23	33	15	10
Leon Draisaitl	80	55	55	110	17	40	1.38	30	68	24	41	1	1	1	11	278	19.8	22:21	53.4	16	7	25	32	4	6
Zach Hyman	76	27	27	54	-9	36	0.71	21	40	5	10	1	4	1	4	213	12.7	19:28	48.2	16	11	5	16	4	4
Ryan Nugent-Hopkins	63	11	39	50	3	16	0.79	7	22	1	23	3	5	0	1	154	7.1	19:19	40.7	16	6	8	14	-3	14
Evan Bouchard	81	12	31	43	10	28	0.53	10	35	2	7	0	1	0	1	205	5.9	19:48	--	16	3	6	9	-4	4
Kailer Yamamoto	81	20	21	41	-1	40	0.51	16	33	3	6	1	2	0	4	114	17.5	16:52	33.3	14	2	5	7	-6	10
Tyson Barrie	73	7	34	41	3	18	0.56	4	19	3	21	0	1	0	0	149	4.7	18:58	--	16	1	4	5	2	10
Evander Kane	43	22	17	39	25	60	0.91	17	32	3	4	2	3	0	3	152	14.5	19:27	45.0	15	13	4	17	2	37
Jesse Puljujarvi	65	14	22	36	22	20	0.55	10	29	4	7	0	0	0	1	160	8.8	16:14	--	16	2	1	3	0	2
Darnell Nurse	71	9	26	35	18	54	0.49	7	26	0	6	2	3	0	0	203	4.4	25:03	--	15	2	4	6	5	26
Cody Ceci	78	5	23	28	8	14	0.36	5	25	0	0	0	3	0	0	102	4.9	20:54	--	16	1	6	7	4	12
Warren Foegele	82	12	14	26	-9	24	0.32	10	23	2	3	0	0	0	3	142	8.5	12:37	46.4	13	0	1	1	-5	2
Derek Ryan	75	10	12	22	-4	8	0.29	10	21	0	0	0	1	0	2	72	13.9	11:26	55.9	15	1	2	3	-3	4
Ryan McLeod	71	9	12	21	-2	12	0.30	7	16	2	5	0	0	0	1	82	11.0	12:46	47.2	16	3	1	4	-4	8
Duncan Keith	64	1	20	21	15	22	0.33	1	19	0	2	0	0	0	1	79	1.3	19:44	--	16	1	4	5	-4	4
Zack Kassian	58	6	13	19	2	63	0.33	4	17	2	2	0	0	0	1	58	10.3	11:47	42.9	16	2	2	4	-2	12
Devin Shore	49	5	6	11	-4	10	0.22	4	10	0	0	1	1	0	0	36	13.9	9:34	47.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kris Russell	31	2	7	9	7	4	0.29	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	34	5.9	15:26	--	6	0	0	0	0	0
Brett Kulak	18	2	6	8	6	12	0.44	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	6.9	17:05	--	16	0	5	5	7	12
Brendan Perlini	23	4	1	5	-2	6	0.22	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	16.7	8:22	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Colton Sceviour	35	2	3	5	-6	26	0.14	2	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	38	5.3	9:28	46.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kyle Turris	23	1	3	4	-5	4	0.17	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	4.8	8:37	56.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Slater Koekkoek	19	0	4	4	2	16	0.21	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0.0	11:10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
William Lagesson	30	0	4	4	1	13	0.13	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0.0	12:20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Derick Brassard	15	2	1	3	-2	6	0.20	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	16	12.5	9:53	50.0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Philip Broberg	23	1	2	3	-8	8	0.13	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	3.5	13:28	--	1	0	0	0	0	0
Brad Malone	8	1	1	2	-2	2	0.25	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	14.3	8:17	48.2	2	0	0	0	-1	12
Tyler Benson	29	1	1	2	-5	18	0.07	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	5.6	8:33	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Josh Archibald	8	0	1	1	-2	7	0.13	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.0	9:03	50.0	13	0	1	1	-5	4
Cooper Marody	1	0	1	1	0	0	1.00	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	6:04	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Markus Niemelainen	20	0	1	1	-5	4	0.05	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0.0	13:12	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Seth Griffith	1	0	0	0	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	5:37	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dmitri Samorukov	1	0	0	0	-2	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	2:28	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dylan Holloway	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	0	0	0	1	0

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**SA**	**SVS**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**
Mikko Koskinen	45	43	27	12	4	1,397	1,261	136	.903	3.10	2628:38	1	4	3	0	0	2	58	52	6	.897	4.02	89:29	0	0
Mike Smith	28	27	16	9	2	874	800	74	.915	2.81	1579:58	2	6	16	16	8	6	560	511	49	.913	3.37	872:15	2	2
Stuart Skinner	13	12	6	6	0	367	335	32	.913	2.62	734:09	1	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Wed, Oct 12	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 15	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Tue, Oct 18	vs Buffalo	9:00 PM
Thu, Oct 20	vs Carolina	9:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	vs St. Louis	4:00 PM
Mon, Oct 24	vs Pittsburgh	8:00 PM
Wed, Oct 26	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 27	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Sat, Oct 29	@ Calgary	10:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	vs Nashville	9:00 PM
Thu, Nov 3	vs New Jersey	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 5	vs Dallas	4:00 PM
Mon, Nov 7	@ Washington	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 8	@ Tampa Bay	7:30 PM
Thu, Nov 10	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
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Mon, Nov 21	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
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Thu, Dec 1	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 3	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
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Thu, Dec 15	vs St. Louis	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 17	vs Anaheim	4:00 PM
Mon, Dec 19	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Wed, Dec 21	@ Dallas	9:30 PM
Fri, Dec 23	vs Vancouver	9:00 PM
Tue, Dec 27	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Fri, Dec 30	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 31	vs Winnipeg	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 3	vs Seattle	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 5	vs NY Islanders	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 7	vs Colorado	10:00 PM
Mon, Jan 9	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Wed, Jan 11	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Fri, Jan 13	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sat, Jan 14	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 17	vs Seattle	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 19	vs Tampa Bay	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Wed, Jan 25	vs Columbus	9:30 PM
Sat, Jan 28	vs Chicago	10:00 PM
Tue, Feb 7	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Thu, Feb 9	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 11	@ Ottawa	12:30 PM
Sun, Feb 12	@ Montreal	12:30 PM
Wed, Feb 15	vs Detroit	9:30 PM
Fri, Feb 17	vs NY Rangers	9:00 PM
Sun, Feb 19	@ Colorado	3:00 PM
Tue, Feb 21	vs Philadelphia	9:00 PM
Thu, Feb 23	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 25	@ Columbus	12:30 PM
Mon, Feb 27	vs Boston	8:30 PM
Wed, Mar 1	vs Toronto	8:00 PM
Fri, Mar 3	vs Winnipeg	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 4	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 6	@ Buffalo	7:30 PM
Thu, Mar 9	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 14	vs Ottawa	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 16	vs Dallas	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 18	@ Seattle	4:00 PM
Mon, Mar 20	vs San Jose	9:30 PM
Wed, Mar 22	vs Arizona	10:30 PM
Sat, Mar 25	vs Vegas	10:00 PM
Mon, Mar 27	@ Arizona	10:00 PM
Tue, Mar 28	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 30	vs Los Angeles	9:00 PM
Sat, Apr 1	vs Anaheim	10:00 PM
Tue, Apr 4	@ Los Angeles	9:30 PM
Wed, Apr 5	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 8	@ San Jose	4:00 PM
Tue, Apr 11	@ Colorado	9:30 PM
Thu, Apr 13	vs San Jose	9:00 PM

EVANDER
KANE

PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS

FLORIDA PANTHERS

THN PREDICTION | 3RD IN ATLANTIC

ALEKSANDER **BARKOV**

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY ERIN BROWN

THE PANTHERS SKATED to their most prolific regular season, their first playoff series win since 1995-96 and saw Jonathan Huberdeau produce the first 100-point campaign in team history. But the Presidents' Trophy winners stumbled through a first-round series against Washington before suffering a sweep at the hands of rival Tampa Bay. A cap crunch then forced the exodus of top UFAs, including breakout winger Mason Marchment and trade-deadline additions Claude Giroux and Ben Chiarot.

Seeking a more experienced voice behind the bench, GM Bill Zito brought in veteran Paul Maurice to replace interim coach Andrew Brunette. Then, given the opportunity to lock in a superstar with cost certainty, Zito parted with fan favorites Huberdeau and MacKenzie Weegar in a blockbuster trade for 24-year-old Matthew Tkachuk, who signed an eight-year, $76-million deal. Hockey's profile is on the rise in South Florida, home to this season's NHL All-Star Game. And so are expectations, with the Panthers aiming to win now and for the foreseeable future.

>OFFENSE

The first team since 1995-96 to average at least four goals per game (4.11), Florida still has the resources to match the feat this season. Although Tkachuk had fewer points (104) than Huberdeau (115) last year, he brings an intensity and swagger Florida lacked in the playoffs.

Selke Trophy finalist Aleksander Barkov continues to find new levels to his game, and the supporting cast of Sam Bennett, Anthony Duclair, Sam Reinhart and Carter Verhaeghe return after all had across-the-board career years. Duclair will miss the first half of the season after Achilles surgery, but Zito signed Colin White, Nick Cousins and Rudolfs Balcers to compete for middle-six roles. Finnish youngsters Anton Lundell, 20, and Eetu Luostarinen, 24, play like veterans in anchoring Florida up the middle.

>DEFENSE

The Panthers have an adversity-tested bunch who have settled into their respective roles. For the second

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD	58-18-6 (.744)
OVERTIME	13-2
SHOOTOUT	3-4
OVERALL	1st
OFFENSE	4.11 GPG (1st)
DEFENSE	2.95 GAA (12th)
POWER PLAY	24.4% (5th)
PENALTY KILL	79.5% (16th)
CORSI FOR/60	65.72 (1st)
CORSI AGAINST/60	50.9 (4th)
ICE TIME LEAD (F)	A. Barkov (20:18)
ICE TIME LEAD (D)	A. Ekblad (24:55)

FAST FACTS

COACH	Paul Maurice
GM	Bill Zito
ARENA	FLA Live Arena
CAPACITY	19,250
AHL AFFILIATE	Charlotte Checkers
ECHL AFFILIATE	Florida Everblades
PLAYOFF RECORD	7-13 (since 2018)

straight season, they successfully endured a stretch without Aaron Ekblad, while also showcasing a dynamic side when he was on the ice. If the 26-year-old can stay healthy, he may finally join Norris Trophy discussions. Along with Ekblad, Gustav Forsling, Brandon Montour and Radko Gudas round out the top four and continue to gel.

Marc Staal and Michael Del Zotto, who bring a combined 1,755 NHL games, will get third-pair duty, with Lucas Carlsson and Matt Kiersted positioned to steal ice time with continued growth. The Cats also added Calle Sjallen, a Swedish puck-mover who posted 22 points in 46 games with SHL Leksand last season.

AARON
EKBLAD

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

>GOALTENDING

Florida's exciting offense overshadowed Sergei Bobrovsky's best season since arriving in 2019. 'Bob' set a single-season team record in wins (39) while posting his best goals-against average (2.67) and save percentage (.913) as a Panther. He'll be backed up by 21-year-old Spencer Knight, who looked a bit more human in his first full season yet posted respectable numbers. Alex Lyon, a Calder Cup winner with AHL Chicago, is Florida's No. 3.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

One of Maurice's first tasks will be reviving Florida's special teams, especially the power play, which went a shocking 1-for-31 in the playoffs after converting on 24.4 percent of its chances during the regular season. Tkachuk's physical style and aggressive shooting should produce more goals down low while opening up opportunities for his teammates. Verhaeghe or White are options on the man advantage while Duclair recovers. There's work to be done on the penalty kill, too. Although the Cats ranked 16th with a 79.5-percent mark during the regular season, it dropped to 71.8 percent in the post-season.

>INTANGIBLES

Buyouts of Keith Yandle and Scott Darling have saddled the Panthers with a $6.5-million cap penalty and very little space with which to work. Florida has also parted with significant assets from its system, including first-round picks through 2025, two second-rounders, 23-year-old right winger Owen Tippett and goalie prospect Devon Levi, among others. Unless Zito is willing to further break up Florida's core, there will not be the same kind of reinforcements coming in at the trade deadline.

>ROOKIES

Center Aleksi Heponiemi, Florida's second-round pick in 2017, is poised to crack the bottom six, but his speed and playmaking ability could earn him a promotion in a pinch. Left winger Grigori Denisenko, who was limited to just 30 games in AHL Charlotte last season, could contend for a spot with a strong camp, but 2018's 15th overall pick is likely to start in the minors.

CUP ODDS

16/1

>X-FACTOR

Maurice noted the Panthers are at a stage where they need to "believe they've earned the right" to be among the elite. The same could be said for Maurice, who has 775 career NHL coaching wins, which ranks seventh all-time, but no Stanley Cup. He said his voice grew stale in Winnipeg, but if he finds an eager audience in Florida, the Panthers and Maurice may find the next level together.

>THE BRASS

Zito enters his third season as GM of the Panthers, who have been at their best with an eye-popping 95-32-11 mark during his tenure. Maurice becomes Florida's third coach since October 2021, so an adjustment can be expected. He envisions subtle changes to the team's playing style to improve its defensive performance, though not a major overhaul. H

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Matthew Tkachuk	1. Aleksander Barkov	1. Sam Reinhart
2. Carter Verhaeghe	2. Sam Bennett	2. Anthony Duclair ✚
3. Nick Cousins	3. Anton Lundell	3. Patric Hornqvist
4. Ryan Lomberg	4. Colin White	4. Rudolfs Balcers
5. Chris Tierney	5. Eetu Luostarinen	5. Grigori Denisenko

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Aaron Ekblad	6. Michael Del Zotto	1. Sergei Bobrovsky
2. Gustav Forsling	7. Lucas Carlsson	2. Spencer Knight
3. Brandon Montour	8. Calle Sjalin	3. Alex Lyon
4. Radko Gudas	9. Matt Kiersted	✚ INJURED
5. Marc Staal	10. Santtu Kinnunen	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Jonathan Huberdeau, LW; MacKenzie Weegar, D; Claude Giroux, C; Mason Marchment, LW; Ben Chiarot, D; Maxim Mamin, LW; Noel Acciari, C; Joe Thornton, C; Robert Hagg, D

GRIGORI
DENISENKO

FUTURE WATCH

WITH NO PICKS UNTIL until Round 3 in 2022, the Panthers had to mine for gems and may have found a couple in Liam Arnsby, a character kid from OHL North Bay, and Jack Devine, who won a national title with NCAA Denver. Pleasant surprises such as Jakub Kos and Justin Sourdif continue to develop their games, while the next wave will be led by the likes of Grigori Denisenko (held back by injuries) and NHLers Anton Lundell and Spencer Knight.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Grigori Denisenko, LW

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Charlotte (AHL)
Thrives in both open and tight games with broad skill set. Limited to 53 games past two seasons.
Acquired 15th overall, 2018 **NHL** '22-23

2. Mackie Samoskevich, C

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Michigan (Big Ten)
Hard-nosed, well-rounded, doesn't shy from dirty areas. Sister Melissa a top women's player.
Acquired 24th overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

3. Justin Sourdif, C

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Edmonton (WHL)
Exceeds expectations with great mind for the game. Played a role in Edmonton's WHL title.
Acquired 87th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

4. Aleksi Heponiemi, C

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Charlotte (AHL)
Speedy, high-drive scorer has rounded into contributor in AHL. Coaches love his game.
Acquired 40th overall, 2017 **NHL** '23-24

5. Evan Nause, D

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Quebec (QMJHL)
Beautiful stride on playmaking blueliner. Made up for lost time after turbulent 2020-21 season.
Acquired 56th overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

6. Logan Hutsko, RW

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Charlotte (AHL)
Out of college and onto the top line in the AHL last season. Wins over fans with his effort.
Acquired 89th overall, 2018 **NHL** '23-24

7. Michael Benning, D

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Denver (NCHC)
Lack of size bred smarts and O-zone skills for 5-foot-9 rearguard. Son of former NHLer Brian.
Acquired 95th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

8. Serron Noel, RW

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Charlotte (AHL)
Son of ex-CFLer has big-league size and strength. Scoring touch needs refining.
Acquired 34th overall, 2018 **NHL** '24-25

9. Kasper Puutio, D

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** KalPa (Fin.)
Defends by taking away time and space. Not as mobile or puck-savvy as others in cohort.
Acquired 153rd overall, 2020 **NHL** '25-26

10. Vladislav Lukashevich, D

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Loko Yaroslavl Jr. (Rus.)
Plenty of poise with puck and adept puck-moving skills. Strength, shot need work.
Acquired 120th overall, 2021 **NHL** '26-27

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Sergei Bobrovsky	34	Florida	54	39	7	3	2.67	.913
Kirill Gerasimyuk	19	SKA-1946 (Rus Jr.)	18	16	10	1	1.79	.932
Mack Guzda	21	OS/Bar (OHL)	41	25	13	2	2.68	.915
Spencer Knight	21	Florida	32	19	9	3	2.79	.908
Alex Lyon	29	Chicago (AHL)	30	18	7	4	2.16	.920
Tyler Muszelik	18	USA U18 (NTDP)	35	24	5	3	2.91	.900

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Marek Alscher	18	Portland (WHL)	61	7	9	16	48
Michael Benning	20	Denver (NCHC)	41	15	23	38	14
Carter Berger	23	Connecticut (HE)	35	1	7	8	16
Anthony Bitetto	32	Hfd/SJ (AHL)	53	6	11	17	54
Lucas Carlsson	25	Florida	40	3	6	9	10
Michael Del Zotto	32	Ottawa	26	3	10	13	4
Aaron Ekblad	26	Florida	61	15	42	57	26
Gustav Forsling	26	Florida	71	10	27	37	18
Max Gildon	23	Charlotte (AHL)	22	1	4	5	6
Radko Gudas	32	Florida	77	3	13	16	105
Braden Hache	19	Kingston (OHL)	55	2	3	5	65
Ludvig Jansson	18	Sodertalje (Swe2)	47	2	3	5	10
Matt Kiersted	24	Charlotte (AHL)	63	5	15	20	6
Santtu Kinnunen	23	Tappara (Fin)	54	4	19	23	57
Cole Krygier	22	Michigan St. (Big10)	35	4	7	11	72
John Ludvig	22	Charlotte (AHL)	3	0	0	0	0
Vladislav Lukashevich	19	Loko Yaroslavl (Rus Jr.)	26	0	5	5	6
Brandon Montour	28	Florida	81	11	26	37	48
Evan Nause	19	Quebec (QMJHL)	59	8	38	46	42
Kasper Puutio	20	KalPa (Fin)	55	5	5	10	20
Calle Sjalin	23	Leksand (Swe)	46	6	16	22	8
Marc Staal	35	Detroit	71	3	13	16	28
Nathan Staios	21	Hamilton (OHL)	59	15	51	66	40
Zachary Uens	21	Merrimack (HE)	34	2	17	19	28

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Liam Arnsby	18	North Bay (OHL)	46	9	17	26	70
Rudolfs Balcers	25	San Jose	61	11	12	23	20
Aleksander Barkov	27	Florida	67	39	49	88	18
Sam Bennett	26	Florida	71	28	21	49	74
Henry Bowlby	25	Charlotte (AHL)	64	12	16	28	36
Connor Bunnaman	24	LV/Cha (AHL)	53	6	5	11	10
Nick Cousins	29	Nashville	68	9	13	22	31
Zac Dalpe	32	Charlotte (AHL)	68	30	9	39	43
Joshua Davies	18	Swift Current (WHL)	64	16	20	36	119
Alexander Delnov	28	Alm/Novom (Rus2)	18	1	3	4	2
Grigori Denisenko	22	Charlotte (AHL)	30	9	9	18	8
Jack Devine	18	Denver (NCHC)	36	3	16	19	16
Anthony Duclair	27	Florida	74	31	27	58	30
Elliot Ekmark	20	Linkoping (Swe)	44	2	1	3	12
Aleksi Heponiemi	23	Charlotte (AHL)	56	9	30	39	28
Patric Hornqvist	35	Florida	65	11	17	28	19
Logan Hutsko	23	Charlotte (AHL)	71	10	28	38	34
Yegor Korshkov	26	Yaroslavl (KHL)	44	11	11	22	18
Jakub Kos	19	Koovee (Fin2)	20	3	13	16	10
Yaroslav Kosov	29	Omsk (KHL)	24	3	1	4	25
Anton Levtchi	26	Tappara (Fin)	55	26	35	61	46
Owen Lindmark	21	Wisconsin (Big10)	9	1	0	1	2
Ryan Lomberg	27	Florida	55	9	9	18	92
Anton Lundell	20	Florida	65	18	26	44	18
Eetu Luostarinen	24	Florida	78	9	17	26	12
Gerry Mayhew	29	Phi/Ana	40	11	1	12	18
Serron Noel	22	Charlotte (AHL)	64	5	15	20	74
Sam Reinhart	26	Florida	78	33	49	82	13
Aleksi Saarela	25	SCL (Swi)	31	10	12	22	6
Mackie Samoskevich	19	Michigan (Big10)	40	10	19	29	12
Justin Sourdif	20	Van/Edm (WHL)	52	26	45	71	61
Chris Tierney	28	Ottawa	70	6	12	18	14
Matthew Tkachuk	24	Calgary	82	42	62	104	68
Carter Verhaeghe	27	Florida	78	24	31	55	48
Sandis Vilmanis	18	Lulea (Swe Jr.)	40	18	14	32	20
Colin White	25	Ottawa	24	3	7	10	4

DENISENKO: PHOTO BY HC LOKOMOTIV

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																			2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	P/GP	EVG	EVP	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	OTG	GWG	S	S%	TOI/GP	FOW%	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM
Jonathan Huberdeau	80	30	85	115	35	54	1.44	22	72	5	38	3	5	2	7	222	13.5	19:25	33.3	10	1	4	5	1	4
Aleksander Barkov	67	39	49	88	36	18	1.31	23	57	12	26	4	5	2	5	214	18.2	20:18	57.0	10	2	5	7	3	4
Sam Reinhart	78	33	49	82	25	13	1.05	17	49	16	31	0	2	0	6	186	17.7	17:46	48.5	10	3	1	4	-4	2
Anthony Duclair	74	31	27	58	19	30	0.78	22	37	9	21	0	0	1	5	167	18.6	15:00	50.0	8	1	2	3	4	4
Aaron Ekblad	61	15	42	57	38	26	0.93	12	34	3	20	0	3	2	2	180	8.3	24:55	--	10	1	4	5	-2	11
Carter Verhaeghe	78	24	31	55	24	48	0.71	24	52	0	3	0	0	1	4	167	14.4	16:03	65.5	10	6	6	12	7	4
Sam Bennett	71	28	21	49	27	74	0.69	23	39	5	9	0	1	1	7	241	11.6	16:57	46.9	10	1	2	3	1	12
Mason Marchment	54	18	29	47	29	53	0.87	17	45	1	2	0	0	0	2	121	14.9	14:07	27.5	4	1	0	1	-3	6
Anton Lundell	65	18	26	44	33	18	0.68	16	36	1	4	1	4	0	4	125	14.4	15:44	44.7	9	1	0	1	-1	2
MacKenzie Weegar	80	8	36	44	40	81	0.55	6	39	1	3	1	2	0	2	203	3.9	23:22	--	10	0	1	1	1	10
Brandon Montour	81	11	26	37	15	48	0.46	10	29	1	8	0	0	1	1	153	7.2	17:54	--	10	0	3	3	0	6
Gustav Forsling	71	10	27	37	41	18	0.52	10	37	0	0	0	0	1	1	145	6.9	21:13	--	10	0	3	3	7	4
Patric Hornqvist	65	11	17	28	-5	19	0.43	8	21	3	7	0	0	0	0	165	6.7	12:40	38.1	10	1	1	2	-3	4
Eetu Luostarinen	78	9	17	26	1	12	0.33	7	22	0	1	2	3	1	4	84	10.7	13:26	40.0	10	1	1	2	-3	2
Claude Giroux	18	3	20	23	7	6	1.28	1	12	2	11	0	0	0	0	51	5.9	18:34	57.9	10	3	5	8	2	0
Frank Vatrano	49	10	9	19	-2	16	0.39	9	17	1	2	0	0	1	2	105	9.5	12:12	40.9	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ryan Lomberg	55	9	9	18	4	92	0.33	9	17	0	0	0	1	0	1	91	9.9	11:24	14.3	5	1	0	1	-1	2
Radko Gudas	77	3	13	16	27	105	0.21	2	15	0	0	1	1	0	0	100	3.0	18:01	--	10	0	2	2	1	6
Maxim Mamin	40	7	7	14	8	13	0.35	7	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	14.3	11:54	0.0	4	0	0	0	-3	0
Owen Tippett	42	6	8	14	2	10	0.33	6	13	0	1	0	0	0	0	73	8.2	12:32	36.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Joe Thornton	34	5	5	10	-10	10	0.29	2	7	3	3	0	0	0	1	26	19.2	11:06	44.0	1	0	0	0	-1	0
Lucas Carlsson	40	3	6	9	3	10	0.23	3	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	7.3	12:43	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Noel Acciari	20	3	5	8	2	11	0.40	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	32	9.4	11:59	50.6	9	0	0	0	-5	0
Ben Chiarot	20	2	6	8	4	6	0.40	1	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	47	4.3	20:56	--	10	0	1	1	-1	8
Matt Kiersted	10	1	1	2	-8	2	0.20	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	9.1	14:03	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Petteri Lindbohm	9	0	1	1	0	5	0.11	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.0	14:03	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Robert Hagg	16	0	1	1	0	10	0.06	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0.0	13:03	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Markus Nutivaara	1	0	1	1	0	0	1.00	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	7:01	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Aleksi Heponiemi	6	0	1	1	-6	2	0.17	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	7	0.0	14:02	33.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Zac Dalpe	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	6:08	25.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kevin Connauton	13	0	0	0	4	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0.0	12:01	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Olli Juolevi	10	0	0	0	0	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.0	12:27	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Chase Priskie	4	0	0	0	2	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.0	14:00	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Grigori Denisenko	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0	15:30	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cole Schwindt	3	0	0	0	-4	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0	14:08	48.4	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	GP	GS	W	L	OT	SA	SVS	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO	G	A	P	PIM	GP	GS	W	L	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO
Sergei Bobrovsky	54	53	39	7	3	1,566	1,429	137	.913	2.67	3082:10	3	4	10	10	4	6	303	276	27	.911	2.7	600:18	0	2
Spencer Knight	32	27	19	9	3	876	795	81	.908	2.79	1740:14	2	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jonas Johansson	2	2	0	2	0	64	49	15	.766	7.74	116:13	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Thu, Oct 13	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 15	@ Buffalo	1:00 PM
Mon, Oct 17	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Wed, Oct 19	vs Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Fri, Oct 21	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 23	vs NY Islanders	5:00 PM
Tue, Oct 25	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 27	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 29	vs Ottawa	4:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	@ Arizona	10:00 PM
Thu, Nov 3	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sat, Nov 5	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Sun, Nov 6	@ Anaheim	9:00 PM
Wed, Nov 9	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 12	vs Edmonton	4:00 PM
Tue, Nov 15	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	vs Calgary	4:00 PM
Sun, Nov 20	@ Columbus	6:00 PM
Wed, Nov 23	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 26	vs St. Louis	6:00 PM
Mon, Nov 28	@ Edmonton	9:30 PM
Tue, Nov 29	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Thu, Dec 1	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 3	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 6	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 8	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 10	@ Tampa Bay	4:00 PM
Sun, Dec 11	vs Seattle	6:00 PM
Tue, Dec 13	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 15	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 17	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 19	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 21	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 23	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Thu, Dec 29	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 30	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 1	vs NY Rangers	5:00 PM
Tue, Jan 3	vs Arizona	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 6	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Sun, Jan 8	@ Dallas	1:00 PM
Tue, Jan 10	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 12	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 14	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 16	@ Buffalo	1:00 PM
Tue, Jan 17	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 19	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	vs Minnesota	6:00 PM
Mon, Jan 23	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 24	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 27	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 28	vs Boston	6:00 PM
Mon, Feb 6	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 9	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 11	vs Colorado	6:00 PM
Mon, Feb 13	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Tue, Feb 14	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 16	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	@ Nashville	2:00 PM
Mon, Feb 20	vs Anaheim	1:00 PM
Fri, Feb 24	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 28	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 2	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 4	vs Pittsburgh	6:00 PM
Tue, Mar 7	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 10	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 16	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 18	vs New Jersey	5:00 PM
Mon, Mar 20	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Tue, Mar 21	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 23	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	vs NY Rangers	5:00 PM
Mon, Mar 27	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 29	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Thu, Mar 30	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 1	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 4	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 6	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 8	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Mon, Apr 10	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	vs Carolina	7:00 PM

SERGEI
BOBROVSKY

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

LOS ANGELES KINGS

THN PREDICTION | 4TH IN PACIFIC

ANZE KOPITAR

PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD
44-27-11 (.604)

OVERTIME
5-7

SHOOTOUT
4-4

OVERALL
14th

OFFENSE
2.87 GPG (20th)

DEFENSE
2.83 GAA (10th)

POWER PLAY
16.1% (27th)

PENALTY KILL
76.7% (22nd)

CORSI FOR/60
60.52 (7th)

CORSI AGAINST/60
51.25 (5th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
A. Kopitar (20:46)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
D. Doughty (25:44)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Todd McLellan

GM
Rob Blake

ARENA
Crypto.com Arena

CAPACITY
18,118

AHL AFFILIATE
Ontario Reign

ECHL AFFILIATE
N/A

PLAYOFF RECORD
3-8 (since 2018)

BY DOUG WARD

IT HAS BEEN OVER a decade since Mike Emrick ushered in the Kings' first Stanley Cup with the succinct proclamation, "the Kings are the kings." More than eight years have passed since they hinted at a dynasty with another Cup in 2014, but, like the rest of California, the Kings have recently endured a long drought. That dry spell ended as coach Todd McLellan melded youthful promise with veteran acumen to lead the franchise to the playoffs for the first time in four years, and the Kings are inching closer to reclaiming their crown. "We have a lot of young prospects, and last year, we started adding character players around those guys," said Kings president Luc Robitaille. After that formula extended Edmonton to seven games, McLellan challenged his youngsters to speed up their maturation process. "There's a lot of growing up that some of them need to do, and they can do it," he said. "And they will do it."

>OFFENSE

These aren't the Wayne Gretzky-era Kings, but Los Angeles is finally trending in the right direction. They finished 20th in the league with 2.87 goals per game, up from 2.54 in 2020-21, and the acquisition of Kevin Fiala will spike those numbers. Anze Kopitar once again paced the offense (19 goals, 67 points), while Adrian Kempe broke out, leading the team in goals with 35 before signing a four-year extension.

Newcomers made immediate contributions, as Phillip Danault finished third on the team in scoring (27 goals, 51 points) while Viktor Arvidsson was fourth (20 goals, 49 points). Trevor Moore and Alex Iafallo each added 17 goals. On the blueline, Drew Doughty led the way with seven goals and 31 points in just 39 games.

>DEFENSE

The Kings were a little tighter on defense, finishing tied for ninth while allowing 2.83 goals per game after giving up 3.02 in 2020-21. Doughty got off to a strong start before wrist surgery shut down his season. The return of Doughty and Sean Walker, who played in just six games before sustaining a season-ending knee injury, will help tighten things further.

In Doughty's absence, the Kings got veteran leadership from Alex Edler, who will be back after signing a one-year extension. More encouraging for the future, L.A. got solid performances from Sean Durzi, Mikey Anderson and Matt Roy. After the departures of Troy Stecher and Olli Maatta, the Kings need to see progress from Tobias Bjornfot.

JONATHAN **QUICK**

DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS

>GOALTENDING

Just when you thought Jonathan Quick would abdicate his place in net, the 36-year-old was back in, carrying the bulk of the load during crucial late-season games and in the playoffs. Cal Petersen started the season-opener but will have to wait to take over after Quick posted a 23-13-9 record with a 2.59 goals-against average and .910 save percentage. Petersen went 20-14-2 with a 2.89 GAA and .895 SP, providing both competition and depth.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

While the Kings took a step forward on offense and defense, their special teams took two steps back. They converted just 16.1 percent of the time they had an extra skater, 27th in the league. Short of suiting up Robitaille, who had 247 career power-play goals, the Kings tried just about everything to get their man-advantage unit going. The penalty kill was a little better, killing off 76.7 percent of their shorthanded situations to finish 22nd overall. The presence of Kopitar gives the PP an elite anchor, while a full season from Doughty should help, as will the development of Arthur Kaliyev.

>INTANGIBLES

The retirement of Dustin Brown leaves Doughty, Kopitar and Quick as the lone holdovers from the franchise's two Cup teams, but those veterans have the gravitas and game to show the youngsters the way. With his two-way excellence, Kopitar remains rock-solid, former Norris Trophy winner Doughty has made no secret of his impatience with the rebuilding process, and any rumors of Quick's demise were premature.

>ROOKIES

The Kings were delighted with the arrival of Kempe, and there are still more high-end prospects to come. After 46 NHL games, Quinton Byfield is no longer a rookie, but his continued progress is paramount. Alex Turcotte, Samuel Fagemo and Brandt Clarke are all on the verge of earning full-time roster spots.

CUP ODDS

31/1

>X-FACTOR

The Kings' three core vets – Kopitar, Doughty and Quick – remain elite, and the pipeline is encouraging, but it's the progress of the new guard that could expedite the revival. Byfield, Kaliyev and Rasmus Kupari are the future. If they can go from entry-level players to reliable contributors, L.A. could take a big leap.

>THE BRASS

GM Rob Blake is on a roll. Last summer's acquisitions of Edler, Arvidsson and Danault helped get the Kings into the playoffs. This off-season, Blake landed Fiala, then extended Edler and inked rising star Kempe to a four-year deal. Blake was rewarded with a three-year contract extension. H

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING

1. Adrian Kempe
2. Trevor Moore
3. Alex Iafallo
4. Carl Grundstrom
5. Gabe Vilardi

CENTER

1. Anze Kopitar
2. Phillip Danault
3. Quinton Byfield
4. Blake Lizotte
5. Alex Turcotte

RIGHT WING

1. Kevin Fiala
2. Viktor Arvidsson
3. Arthur Kaliyev
4. Brendan Lemieux
5. Rasmus Kupari

DEFENSE

1. Drew Doughty
2. Mikey Anderson
3. Alexander Edler
4. Matt Roy
5. Sean Walker
6. Sean Durzi
7. Tobias Bjornfot
8. Jordan Spence
9. Jacob Moverare
10. Brandt Clarke

GOALIE

1. Jonathan Quick
2. Cal Petersen
3. Pheonix Copley

✚ INJURED
🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Dustin Brown, RW; Andreas Athanasiou, LW; Olli Maatta, D; Troy Stecher, D; Martin Frk, RW; Christian Wolanin, D; Austin Strand, D

ALEX TURCOTTE

FUTURE WATCH

THE KINGS PILED UP high-end picks from 2019 to '21, choosing nine times in the top-50 during that span. Now it's onto the next phase, and in 2022, the first selection was Jack D. Hughes from Northeastern at No. 51. Los Angeles continues to fold in the top kids, from Quinton Byfield and Rasmus Kupari to Tobias Bjornfot and Alex Turcotte. That competition will keep the team on its toes as Anze Kopitar and Drew Doughty wind down their NHL careers.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Alex Turcotte, C

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Ontario (AHL)

Tenacious forechecker and clever creator with the puck on his stick. Son of former NHLer Alfie.

Acquired 5th overall, 2019 **NHL** '23-24

2. Brandt Clarke, D

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Barrie (OHL)

Masks mediocre skating with elite playmaking, hockey sense. Played in Slovakia in 2020-21.

Acquired 8th overall, 2021 **NHL** '23-24

3. Helge Grans, D

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Ontario (AHL)

Moves quite well for blueliner his size and can rack up points. Nice footwork and great reach.

Acquired 35th overall, 2020 **NHL** '23-24

4. Jack D. Hughes, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Northeastern (HE)

Thinks the game well and won't sacrifice defense for offense. Son of Habs GM Kent Hughes.

Acquired 51st overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

5. Samuel Fagemo, LW

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Ontario (AHL)

Near 30-goal AHL campaign a sign of what's to come from shooter. Led 2020 WJC in scoring.

Acquired 50th overall, 2019 **NHL** '23-24

6. Martin Chromiak, LW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Kingston (OHL)

Hockey IQ off the charts, which helped big OHL stats. Power-play weapon with big one-timer.

Acquired 128th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

7. Akil Thomas, C

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Ontario (AHL)

Dip in AHL production concerning for former OHL standout. Goal-per-game in playoffs.

Acquired 51st overall, 2018 **NHL** '24-25

8. Francesco Pinelli, C

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Kitchener (OHL)

A captain's qualities and lead-by-example scorer. Played in Slovenia during pandemic.

Acquired 42nd overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

9. Samuel Helenius, C

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** JYP (Fin.)

Plays a rugged, physical style like his father, Sami. Massive wingspan, strong on puck.

Acquired 59th overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

10. Jaret Anderson-Dolan, C

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Ontario (AHL)

Shaping up to be a bottom-six winger with strong two-way skills, 200-foot game.

Acquired 41st overall, 2017 **NHL** '23-24

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Pheonix Copley	30	Hershey (AHL)	35	18	12	7	2.38	.913
David Hrenak	24	St. Cloud St. (NCHC)	31	16	11	4	2.26	.914
Jacob Ingham	22	Greenville (ECHL)	16	9	5	2	2.71	.909
Juho Markkanen	20	SaiPa (Fin)	15	1	10	1	3.27	.873
Lukas Parik	21	Rapid City (ECHL)	32	14	8	8	2.69	.915
Cal Petersen	27	Los Angeles	37	20	14	2	2.89	.895
Jonathan Quick	36	Los Angeles	46	23	13	9	2.59	.910
Matt Villalta	23	Ontario (AHL)	46	28	10	10	2.98	.903

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Frederic Allard	24	Mil/Ont (AHL)	51	4	11	15	10
Mikey Anderson	23	Los Angeles	57	2	6	8	8
Tobias Bjornfot	21	Los Angeles	70	0	8	8	6
Angus Booth	18	Shawinigan (QMJHL)	42	1	22	23	32
Brandt Clarke	19	Barrie (OHL)	55	11	48	59	29
Drew Doughty	32	Los Angeles	39	7	24	31	4
Sean Durzi	23	Los Angeles	64	3	24	27	55
Braden Doyle	21	Penticton (BCHL)	27	3	24	27	10
Alexander Edler	36	Los Angeles	41	3	16	19	34
Helge Grans	20	Ontario (AHL)	56	7	17	24	8
Kirill Kirsanov	20	St. Petersburg (KHL)	24	0	4	4	4
Ben Meehan	21	UMass-Lowell (HE)	35	5	9	14	54
Jacob Moverare	24	Ontario (AHL)	30	3	7	10	8
Kim Nousiainen	21	KalPa (Fin)	35	4	10	14	22
Tobie Paquette-Bisson	25	Laval (AHL)	55	3	16	19	27
Matt Roy	27	Los Angeles	67	2	19	21	28
Otto Salin	18	HIFK (Fin Jr.)	11	4	8	12	10
Jack Sparkes	18	St. Michael's (OJHL)	37	5	7	12	72
Jordan Spence	21	Ontario (AHL)	46	4	38	42	28
Sean Walker	27	Los Angeles	6	0	2	2	4

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Jaret Anderson-Dolan	23	Ontario (AHL)	54	24	23	47	51
Lias Andersson	23	Los Angeles	20	1	1	2	12
Viktor Arvidsson	29	Los Angeles	66	20	29	49	22
Quinton Byfield	20	Los Angeles	40	5	5	10	20
Martin Chromiak	20	Kingston (OHL)	60	44	42	86	8
Kenny Connors	19	Dubuque (USHL)	61	25	31	56	45
Phillip Danault	29	Los Angeles	79	27	24	51	38
Alexander Dergachyov	26	Omsk (KHL)	25	3	5	8	4
Aidan Dudas	22	Ontario (AHL)	61	10	13	23	16
Samuel Fagemo	22	Ontario (AHL)	63	27	17	44	38
Kevin Fiala	26	Minnesota	82	33	52	85	52
Carl Grundstrom	24	Los Angeles	54	9	6	15	26
Samuel Helenius	19	JYP (Fin)	48	3	6	9	76
Jack D. Hughes	18	Northeastern (HE)	39	7	9	16	28
Alex Iafallo	28	Los Angeles	79	17	20	37	8
Aatu Jamsen	20	Pelicans (Fin)	34	1	5	6	8
Arthur Kaliyev	21	Los Angeles	80	14	13	27	37
Adrian Kempe	25	Los Angeles	78	35	19	54	46
Anze Kopitar	35	Los Angeles	81	19	48	67	14
Rasmus Kupari	22	Los Angeles	57	5	8	13	18
Alex Laferriere	20	Harvard (ECAC)	35	14	17	31	12
Kaleb Lawrence	19	Owen Sound (OHL)	2	0	0	0	2
Andre Lee	22	UMass-Lowell (HE)	34	16	12	28	50
Brendan Lemieux	26	Los Angeles	50	8	5	13	97
Blake Lizotte	24	Los Angeles	70	10	14	24	28
Tyler Madden	22	Ontario (AHL)	48	14	17	31	12
Trevor Moore	27	Los Angeles	81	17	31	48	20
Francesco Pinelli	19	Kitchener (OHL)	55	22	38	60	31
Bulat Shafigullin	22	Nizhnekamsk (KHL)	49	5	10	15	26
Kasper Simontaival	20	KalPa (Fin)	33	7	7	14	14
Akil Thomas	22	Ontario (AHL)	40	8	5	13	13
Alex Turcotte	21	Ontario (AHL)	27	6	12	18	20
T.J. Tynan	30	Ontario (AHL)	62	14	84	98	18
Gabriel Vilardi	23	Ontario (AHL)	39	15	23	38	18
Austin Wagner	25	Ontario (AHL)	55	13	9	22	107
Taylor Ward	24	Neb.-Omaha (NCHC)	38	19	20	39	39
Jared Wright	19	Omaha (USHL)	59	15	19	34	6

TURCOTTE: CHRISTOPHER MORA/ONGARIO REIGN

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																			2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	P/GP	EVG	EVP	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	OTG	GWG	S	S%	TOI/GP	FOW%	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM
Anze Kopitar	81	19	48	67	-6	14	0.83	13	44	6	22	0	1	0	4	210	9.1	20:46	56.9	7	1	3	4	-6	2
Adrian Kempe	78	35	19	54	-2	46	0.69	26	35	6	16	3	3	2	7	247	14.2	18:35	50.0	7	2	4	6	-5	0
Phillip Danault	79	27	24	51	14	38	0.65	25	44	2	4	0	3	0	5	194	13.9	18:08	53.6	7	3	2	5	6	2
Viktor Arvidsson	66	20	29	49	1	22	0.74	16	41	4	8	0	0	1	3	227	8.8	16:59	36.4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Trevor Moore	81	17	31	48	20	20	0.59	11	40	1	2	5	6	0	1	202	8.4	15:41	41.8	7	2	3	5	0	16
Alex Iafallo	79	17	20	37	4	8	0.47	13	29	3	6	1	2	1	2	215	7.9	18:30	46.9	7	1	3	4	-1	4
Drew Doughty	39	7	24	31	4	30	0.79	3	18	4	13	0	0	0	1	99	7.1	25:44	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dustin Brown	64	9	19	28	-3	20	0.44	8	25	1	3	0	0	0	0	146	6.2	14:44	20.0	7	0	2	2	-2	0
Arthur Kaliyev	80	14	13	27	-3	37	0.34	8	18	6	9	0	0	0	2	194	7.2	12:39	--	7	0	0	0	-3	2
Sean Durzi	64	3	24	27	-9	55	0.42	1	11	2	15	0	1	0	0	119	2.5	19:36	--	7	1	2	3	-5	6
Blake Lizotte	70	10	14	24	15	28	0.34	9	21	0	0	1	3	0	2	91	11.0	12:10	51.6	7	0	1	1	-1	16
Matt Roy	67	2	19	21	23	28	0.31	2	17	0	2	0	2	0	0	153	1.3	20:59	--	7	0	1	1	-3	0
Alexander Edler	41	3	16	19	18	34	0.46	3	18	0	0	0	1	0	1	54	5.6	18:28	--	7	0	2	2	4	14
Andreas Athanasiou	28	11	6	17	7	4	0.61	11	16	0	1	0	0	1	3	71	15.5	15:14	65.0	6	1	0	1	-5	4
Carl Grundstrom	54	9	6	15	4	26	0.28	9	15	0	0	0	0	0	1	83	10.8	10:53	31.6	6	3	1	4	-1	0
Brendan Lemieux	50	8	5	13	1	97	0.26	8	13	0	0	0	0	0	2	65	12.3	10:45	45.8	7	1	0	1	-1	18
Rasmus Kupari	57	5	8	13	-5	18	0.23	3	9	1	3	1	1	0	1	51	9.8	11:48	42.6	5	0	0	0	-1	2
Quinton Byfield	40	5	5	10	-7	20	0.25	5	9	0	1	0	0	0	1	39	12.8	12:09	45.4	2	0	0	0	-2	4
Mikey Anderson	57	2	6	8	6	8	0.14	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	58	3.5	20:07	--	7	0	1	1	-5	4
Jordan Spence	24	2	6	8	0	2	0.33	2	6	0	2	0	0	0	1	41	4.9	19:45	--	3	0	0	0	-4	0
Olli Maatta	66	1	7	8	17	10	0.12	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	61	1.6	18:17	--	7	0	0	0	0	0
Tobias Bjornfot	70	0	8	8	-12	6	0.11	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	0.0	16:46	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Gabriel Vilardi	25	5	2	7	-5	8	0.28	3	5	2	2	0	0	0	1	41	12.2	13:31	45.8	2	0	0	0	0	0
Kale Clague	11	0	5	5	-2	2	0.45	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	6	0.0	17:50	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Martin Frk	6	2	0	2	-4	2	0.33	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	15	13.3	14:02	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Christian Wolanin	8	1	1	2	1	2	0.25	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	20.0	15:30	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lias Andersson	20	1	1	2	-7	12	0.10	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	29	3.5	10:37	44.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Vladimir Tkachev	4	0	2	2	-2	2	0.50	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	13:59	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jacob Moverare	19	0	2	2	3	2	0.11	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0.0	16:20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sean Walker	6	0	2	2	-1	4	0.33	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	18	0.0	18:22	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Austin Strand	8	0	2	2	-1	0	0.25	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.0	15:17	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Troy Stecher	13	0	1	1	-1	4	0.08	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	0.0	18:34	--	4	2	2	4	4	0
T.J. Tynan	2	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0	10:51	46.2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jaret Anderson-Dolan	7	0	0	0	-3	4	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.0	13:47	56.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Samuel Fagemo	4	0	0	0	-2	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.0	13:43	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alex Turcotte	8	0	0	0	0	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0.0	11:16	41.4	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	GP	GS	W	L	OT	SA	SVS	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO	G	A	P	PIM	GP	GS	W	L	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO
Jonathan Quick	46	46	23	13	9	1,284	1,168	116	.910	2.59	2685:52	2	6	7	7	3	4	228	206	22	.904	3.43	384:45	1	0
Cal Petersen	37	35	20	14	2	1,002	897	105	.895	2.89	2176:30	3	2	1	0	0	0	20	16	4	.800	7.45	32:14	0	0
Garret Sparks	2	1	1	0	0	47	44	3	.936	1.85	97:13	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Tue, Oct 11	vs Vegas	10:00 PM
Thu, Oct 13	vs Seattle	10:30 PM
Sat, Oct 15	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Mon, Oct 17	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Tue, Oct 18	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 20	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 25	vs Tampa Bay	10:30 PM
Thu, Oct 27	vs Winnipeg	10:30 PM
Sat, Oct 29	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 31	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Thu, Nov 3	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Sat, Nov 5	vs Florida	10:30 PM
Tue, Nov 8	vs Minnesota	10:30 PM
Thu, Nov 10	vs Chicago	10:30 PM
Sat, Nov 12	vs Detroit	10:30 PM
Mon, Nov 14	@ Calgary	8:30 PM
Wed, Nov 16	@ Edmonton	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 18	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Tue, Nov 22	vs NY Rangers	10:30 PM
Fri, Nov 25	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sun, Nov 27	vs Ottawa	10:30 PM
Tue, Nov 29	vs Seattle	10:30 PM
Thu, Dec 1	vs Arizona	10:30 PM
Sat, Dec 3	vs Carolina	10:30 PM
Tue, Dec 6	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 8	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 10	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 11	@ Columbus	6:00 PM
Tue, Dec 13	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 15	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 17	vs San Jose	10:30 PM
Tue, Dec 20	vs Anaheim	10:30 PM
Thu, Dec 22	vs Calgary	10:30 PM
Fri, Dec 23	@ Arizona	9:30 PM
Tue, Dec 27	vs Vegas	10:30 PM
Thu, Dec 29	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 31	vs Philadelphia	4:00 PM
Tue, Jan 3	vs Dallas	10:30 PM
Thu, Jan 5	vs Boston	10:30 PM
Sat, Jan 7	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Mon, Jan 9	vs Edmonton	10:30 PM
Wed, Jan 11	vs San Jose	10:30 PM
Sat, Jan 14	vs New Jersey	10:30 PM
Thu, Jan 19	vs Dallas	10:30 PM
Sat, Jan 21	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sun, Jan 22	@ Chicago	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 24	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 27	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 28	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 31	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 11	vs Pittsburgh	10:30 PM
Mon, Feb 13	vs Buffalo	10:30 PM
Fri, Feb 17	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	vs Arizona	10:30 PM
Tue, Feb 21	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 23	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 24	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sun, Feb 26	@ NY Rangers	5:00 PM
Tue, Feb 28	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 2	vs Montreal	10:30 PM
Sat, Mar 4	vs St. Louis	10:30 PM
Mon, Mar 6	vs Washington	10:30 PM
Thu, Mar 9	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	vs Nashville	10:30 PM
Tue, Mar 14	vs NY Islanders	10:30 PM
Thu, Mar 16	vs Columbus	10:30 PM
Sat, Mar 18	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Mon, Mar 20	vs Calgary	10:30 PM
Sat, Mar 25	vs Winnipeg	4:00 PM
Sun, Mar 26	vs St. Louis	10:30 PM
Tue, Mar 28	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 30	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Sat, Apr 1	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sun, Apr 2	@ Vancouver	8:00 PM
Tue, Apr 4	vs Edmonton	9:30 PM
Thu, Apr 6	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 8	vs Colorado	10:30 PM
Mon, Apr 10	vs Vancouver	10:30 PM
Thu, Apr 13	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM

DREW DOUGHTY

PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS

MINNESOTA
WILD

THN PREDICTION | 3RD IN CENTRAL

MARC-ANDRE **FLEURY**

BRAD REMPEL-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY SARAH MCLELLAN

THE WILD ARE BACK after delivering the best regular season in franchise history, but the same group won't return for an encore. A severe salary-cap pinch is in place, in part because of the escalating cost of the Zach Parise and Ryan Suter buyouts, and that has left Minnesota with limited spending power.

Gone is 30-goal scorer Kevin Fiala, who was traded to Los Angeles because the team couldn't afford to keep him. There were a handful of depth signings in free agency, but otherwise the Wild are set to return with a similar lineup – including all the starters on defense and goalie Marc-Andre Fleury after he was acquired at the 2021-22 trade deadline. Those positions might need to buoy the team as it retools on offense in the absence of Fiala, a shift that could amplify the spotlight on superstar Kirill Kaprizov and up-and-coming first-round talents Matt Boldy and rookie Marco Rossi.

>OFFENSE

On the heels of a career-high 33 goals, Fiala secured a lucrative seven-year contract, but not from the Wild. Fiala was dealt to the Kings for a 2022 first-round pick (used on Liam Ohgren) and prospect Brock Faber. The Wild simply didn't have room in their budget to re-sign the Swiss left winger. His exit leaves behind a gaping hole, and since the Wild didn't have the funds to bring in a replacement, internal candidates such as Rossi or Tyson Jost will complete for a spot on a new-look second line. Rossi, 2020's No. 9 pick, had 18 goals and 53 points last year with AHL Iowa.

What would greatly help the Wild is another epic performance from Kaprizov. In his second NHL campaign, the thrilling left winger set franchise records with 47 goals

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD	53-22-7 (.689)
OVERTIME	11-3
SHOOTOUT	5-4
OVERALL	5th
OFFENSE	3.72 GPG (5th)
DEFENSE	3.04 GAA (16th)
POWER PLAY	20.5% (18th)
PENALTY KILL	76.1% (25th)
CORSI FOR/60	56.5 (12th)
CORSI AGAINST/60	54.25 (13th)
ICE TIME LEAD (F)	K. Kaprizov (19:06)
ICE TIME LEAD (D)	J. Brodin (23:26)

FAST FACTS

COACH	Dean Evason
GM	Bill Guerin
ARENA	Xcel Energy Center
CAPACITY	18,300
AHL AFFILIATE	Iowa Wild
ECHL AFFILIATE	Iowa Heartlanders
PLAYOFF RECORD	7-15 (since 2018)

and 108 points. If he can approach those totals again, Minnesota's offense is in good hands.

>DEFENSE

A veteran-heavy blueline remains the Wild's trademark. Leading the way is captain Jared Spurgeon, who made a formidable duo with Jacob Middleton after Middleton arrived from San Jose at the trade deadline. Jonas Brodin and Matt Dumba are another unit, with Jon Merrill, Alex Goligoski and Dmitry Kulikov taking turns on the third pairing.

Merrill, however, might not be ready to start the season after sustaining an injury at the World Championship in May. If that's the case, the Wild have prospect Calen Addison waiting in the wings. Either way, cutting back on the three-plus goals per game given up on average last season would make life easier on the offense as it recalibrates without Fiala. Perhaps this is where the defense corps' experience makes a difference.

KIRILL **KAPRIZOV**

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

>GOALTENDING

After landing Fleury at the trade deadline from Chicago, the Wild re-signed the three-time Stanley Cup champion to a two-year, $7-million deal. The plan was for Fleury to reunite with Cam Talbot, but Talbot was disappointed he didn't see more action in the playoffs and was ultimately traded to Ottawa. Fleury will be backed up by Filip Gustavsson, who was picked up from the Senators in the Talbot deal.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

Improving the power play is key for the Wild after the unit was middle-of-the-pack at 20.5 percent. The season-long problem came to a head in the playoffs, when the PP went 4-for-24. Even though the personnel will be mostly the same, look for the Wild to experiment with a different scheme. As for the penalty kill, which also contributed to the team's first-round exit against St. Louis, execution was the problem. That, too, is primed for a reboot even though familiar faces will be on the ice. A potential balm for both? Better faceoffs after ranking near the bottom of the league in the circle.

>INTANGIBLES

With 25 comeback wins last season, the Wild had a knack for the dramatic. But this resiliency was also a nod to team chemistry, and the bulk of the club's core remains intact. Kaprizov has become the face of the franchise, while former supporting players such as Joel Eriksson Ek and Marcus Foligno have become leaders. The Wild are cultivating a culture that prioritizes the team over the individual, and that togetherness is paramount to their success.

>ROOKIES

Boldy made a seamless jump to the NHL last season, with 39 points in 47 games, and Rossi could be next. Not only would he bolster a center position that's been a revolving door for the team, but Rossi's playmaking ability might help reinstate the balance the Wild had when Kaprizov and Fiala skated on separate lines.

>X-FACTOR

Kaprizov sets the tone. After winning the Calder Trophy in 2020-21, the winger was even more dynamic as a sophomore, becoming the Wild's first 100-point scorer. Maybe the next time that happens, he'll merit more serious consideration for league MVP.

>THE BRASS

Dean Evason finished fourth in Jack Adams Award voting after he was runner-up for best coach in 2020-21. He received a three-year contract extension back in December. Evason's leadership behind the bench coupled with GM Bill Guerin's makeover has kept the Wild competitive while a new nucleus takes over.

CUP ODDS

24/1

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	**CENTER**	**RIGHT WING**
1. Kirill Kaprizov	**1.** Joel Eriksson Ek	**1.** Mats Zuccarello
2. Jordan Greenway	**2.** Ryan Hartman	**2.** Matt Boldy
3. Tyson Jost	**3.** Frederick Gaudreau	**3.** Marcus Foligno
4. Connor Dewar	**4.** Marco Rossi	**4.** Brandon Duhaime
5. Adam Beckman	**5.** Nic Petan	**5.** Mitchell Chaffee

DEFENSE		**GOALIE**
1. Jared Spurgeon	**6.** Alex Goligoski	**1.** Marc-Andre Fleury
2. Jonas Brodin	**7.** Dmitry Kulikov	**2.** Filip Gustavsson
3. Matt Dumba	**8.** Calen Addison	**3.** Zane McIntyre
4. Jacob Middleton	**9.** Andrej Sustr	✚ INJURED
5. Jon Merrill	**10.** Dakota Mermis	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Kevin Fiala, LW; Cam Talbot, G; Nick Bjugstad, C; Jordie Benn, D; Nicolas Deslauriers, LW

MARCO
ROSSI

FUTURE WATCH

WHEN YOU TRADE AWAY a talent like Kevin Fiala, you better get something good back for the future. And that's exactly what GM Bill Guerin did when he nabbed mobile defender Brock Faber in the deal with L.A. Faber joins a solid defensive pipeline that also includes Ryan O'Rourke, Carson Lambos and Daemon Hunt. If Marco Rossi can build off an excellent AHL campaign, he'll be in the mix, while Liam Ohgren headlined an excellent 2022 draft class.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Marco Rossi, C

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Iowa (AHL)
Standout AHL rookie drives play and piles up points. Missed 2020-21 with myocarditis.
Acquired 9th overall, 2020 **NHL** '22-23

2. Jesper Wallstedt, G

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Lulea (Swe.)
Technically gifted and plays with poise and patience. Highest-drafted Swedish goalie ever.
Acquired 20th overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

3. Brock Faber, D

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Minnesota (Big Ten)
Elite puck-mover is hardworking and savvy in own zone. Led U.S. Olympic team in ice time.
Acquired From LA, July 2022 **NHL** '24-25

4. Liam Ohgren, LW

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Djurgarden Jr. (Swe.)
Straight-line player who loves to pull the trigger. He's got natural leadership qualities.
Acquired 19th overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

5. Danila Yurov, RW

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Magnitogorsk Jr. (Rus.)
Versatility is key, and well-roundedness is a great asset. Loves to play below the goal line.
Acquired 24th overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

6. Calen Addison, D

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Iowa (AHL)
Vision, poise and smarts suggest he's a future power-play quarterback. He's NHL-ready.
Acquired From Pit, Feb. 2020 **NHL** '22-23

7. Carson Lambos, D

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Winnipeg (WHL)
Great gap control and tremendous offensive instincts. Spent 2020-21 in Finnish League.
Acquired 26th overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

8. Adam Beckman, LW

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Iowa (AHL)
Long and lean with a good shot. Made impression in camp. Saw action in three NHL games.
Acquired 75th overall, 2019 **NHL** '23-24

9. Ryan O'Rourke, D

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)
Made advancements in skating. Hard shooter plays with grit and excels in corners.
Acquired 39th overall, 2020 **NHL** '23-24

10. Marat Khusnutdinov, C

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** St. Petersburg (KHL)
Fleet-footed skater has good anticipation and thinks the game well. Offense slow to come.
Acquired 37th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Marc-Andre Fleury	37	Chi/Min	56	28	23	5	2.90	.908
Filip Gustavsson	24	Ottawa	18	5	12	1	3.55	.862
Hunter Jones	22	Iowa (ECHL)	22	5	11	4	4.04	.878
Zane McIntyre	30	Tuc/Iowa (AHL)	40	19	14	3	2.45	.920
Jesper Wallstedt	19	Lulea (Swe)	22	12	10	0	1.98	.918

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Calen Addison	22	Iowa (AHL)	43	7	27	34	70
Nate Benoit	19	TC/Omaha (USHL)	59	1	8	9	47
Jonas Brodin	29	Minnesota	73	5	25	30	18
Matt Dumba	28	Minnesota	57	7	20	27	47
Brock Faber	20	Minnesota (NCHC)	32	2	12	14	12
Alex Goligoski	37	Minnesota	72	2	28	30	34
Simon Johansson	23	Ilves (Fin)	58	8	24	32	20
Ryan Healey	18	Sioux Falls (USHL)	59	3	18	21	22
Joe Hicketts	26	Iowa (AHL)	61	12	19	31	35
Daemon Hunt	20	Moose Jaw (WHL)	46	17	22	39	41
Dmitry Kulikov	31	Minnesota	80	7	17	24	39
Carson Lambos	19	Winnipeg (WHL)	51	10	37	47	57
Kyle Masters	19	Red Deer (WHL)	65	3	11	14	37
Dakota Mermis	28	Iowa (AHL)	59	3	21	24	86
Jon Merrill	30	Minnesota	69	4	16	20	22
Jacob Middleton	26	SJ/Min	66	4	10	14	82
Ryan O'Rourke	20	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	51	10	36	46	87
Jack Peart	19	St. Cloud St. (NCHC)	32	2	15	17	24
David Spacek	19	Sherbrooke (QMJHL)	57	12	38	50	44
Jared Spurgeon	32	Minnesota	65	10	30	40	10
Andrej Sustr	31	TB/Ana	38	1	5	6	16
Marshall Warren	21	Boston Col. (HE)	37	6	15	21	12

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Brandon Baddock	27	Lav/Iowa (AHL)	61	3	5	8	131
Caedan Bankier	19	Kamloops (WHL)	68	21	39	60	26
Adam Beckman	21	Iowa (AHL)	68	11	23	34	28
Matt Boldy	21	Minnesota	47	15	24	39	10
Mitchell Chaffee	24	Iowa (AHL)	49	23	16	39	14
Joseph Cramarossa	29	Iowa (AHL)	51	10	9	19	62
Connor Dewar	23	Minnesota	35	2	4	6	25
Brandon Duhaime	25	Minnesota	80	6	11	17	122
Joel Eriksson Ek	25	Minnesota	77	26	23	49	28
Steven Fogarty	29	Providence (AHL)	62	12	30	42	34
Marcus Foligno	31	Minnesota	74	23	19	42	112
Vladislav Firstov	21	Connecticut (HE)	35	12	11	23	18
Frederick Gaudreau	29	Minnesota	76	14	30	44	8
Damien Giroux	22	Iowa (AHL)	48	3	4	7	20
Jordan Greenway	25	Minnesota	62	10	17	27	69
Matvei Guskov	21	CSKA Moscow (KHL)	32	3	5	8	30
Hunter Haight	18	Barrie (OHL)	63	22	19	41	13
Ryan Hartman	28	Minnesota	82	34	31	65	95
Sam Hentges	22	St. Cloud St. (NCHC)	20	12	10	22	19
Tyson Jost	24	Minnesota	80	8	12	20	34
Kirill Kaprizov	25	Minnesota	81	47	61	108	34
Marat Khusnutdinov	20	St. Petersburg (KHL)	32	5	7	12	8
Rieger Lorenz	18	Okotoks (AJHL)	60	38	47	85	54
Mikey Milne	20	Winnipeg (WHL)	68	38	43	81	55
Nikita Nesterenko	21	Boston Col. (HE)	37	7	17	24	50
Pavel Novak	20	Kelowna (WHL)	62	29	43	72	14
Liam Ohgren	18	Djurgarden (Swe Jr.)	30	33	25	58	6
Nic Petan	27	Abbotsford (AHL)	37	12	32	44	20
Servac Petrovsky	18	Owen Sound (OHL)	65	28	26	54	28
Josh Pillar	20	Kam/Sas (WHL)	46	13	24	37	42
Marco Rossi	21	Iowa (AHL)	63	18	35	53	46
Mason Shaw	23	Iowa (AHL)	62	19	33	52	106
Andrei Svetlakov	26	CSKA Moscow (KHL)	28	3	4	7	18
Nick Swaney	25	Iowa (AHL)	62	16	22	38	18
Danila Yurov	18	Magnitogorsk (KHL)	21	0	0	0	2
Mats Zuccarello	35	Minnesota	70	24	55	79	24

ROSSI: DAVID BERDING-USA TODAY SPORTS

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																		2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	P/GP	EVG	EVP	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	OTG	GWG	S	S%	TOI/GP	FOW%	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM
Kirill Kaprizov	81	47	61	108	27	34	1.33	33	77	14	31	0	0	2	5	289	16.3	19:06	55.6	6	7	1	8	1	2
Kevin Fiala	82	33	52	85	23	52	1.04	27	67	5	17	1	1	1	7	262	12.6	17:39	26.7	6	0	3	3	-5	16
Mats Zuccarello	70	24	55	79	21	24	1.13	17	51	7	28	0	0	0	2	159	15.1	18:35	38.2	6	1	3	4	-1	2
Ryan Hartman	82	34	31	65	31	95	0.79	33	57	1	8	0	0	1	7	239	14.2	18:11	44.8	6	0	5	5	0	2
Joel Eriksson Ek	77	26	23	49	16	28	0.64	14	32	12	17	0	0	2	3	223	11.7	18:35	47.6	6	3	2	5	1	8
Frederick Gaudreau	76	14	30	44	12	8	0.58	13	39	1	3	0	2	1	4	132	10.6	16:19	50.0	6	1	0	1	-1	0
Marcus Foligno	74	23	19	42	25	112	0.57	18	35	5	7	0	0	1	3	98	23.5	16:24	60.0	6	0	2	2	1	14
Jared Spurgeon	65	10	30	40	32	10	0.62	10	26	0	14	0	0	2	2	116	8.6	21:09	--	6	0	3	3	1	4
Matt Boldy	47	15	24	39	17	10	0.83	12	29	3	10	0	0	0	2	113	13.3	15:23	37.5	6	1	0	1	-1	4
Jonas Brodin	73	5	25	30	9	18	0.41	4	22	1	7	0	1	0	1	126	4.0	23:26	--	6	1	2	3	-2	2
Alex Goligoski	72	2	28	30	41	34	0.42	2	26	0	4	0	0	0	0	80	2.5	18:56	--	4	0	0	0	-3	2
Jordan Greenway	62	10	17	27	26	69	0.44	9	25	1	2	0	0	0	3	110	9.1	14:34	36.7	6	1	1	2	0	6
Matt Dumba	57	7	20	27	9	47	0.47	6	22	1	5	0	0	0	1	116	6.0	23:06	--	6	1	0	1	4	2
Dmitry Kulikov	80	7	17	24	23	39	0.30	7	24	0	0	0	0	1	2	74	9.5	18:12	--	2	0	1	1	-4	2
Jon Merrill	69	4	16	20	15	22	0.29	4	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	59	6.8	17:07	--	6	0	1	1	-6	0
Nico Sturm	53	9	8	17	-5	8	0.32	7	15	1	1	1	1	0	0	73	12.3	11:33	52.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brandon Duhaime	80	6	11	17	-2	122	0.21	6	17	0	0	0	0	0	1	91	6.6	10:13	28.6	6	0	0	0	-2	2
Nick Bjugstad	57	7	6	13	-2	20	0.23	6	12	1	1	0	0	0	0	81	8.6	10:16	55.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Victor Rask	29	5	8	13	7	2	0.45	5	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	16.7	10:44	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rem Pitlick	20	6	5	11	1	12	0.55	6	11	0	0	0	0	0	1	13	46.2	9:42	75.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jordie Benn	39	1	7	8	1	10	0.21	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	2.7	14:59	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tyson Jost	21	2	4	6	0	4	0.29	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	21	9.5	12:51	42.9	6	0	0	0	0	4
Connor Dewar	35	2	4	6	-4	25	0.17	2	5	0	1	0	0	0	1	44	4.6	9:54	46.6	1	0	0	0	0	0
Jacob Middleton	21	1	4	5	7	13	0.24	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	4.6	17:55	--	6	0	1	1	6	2
Calen Addison	15	2	2	4	-4	2	0.27	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	11.8	13:47	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nicolas Deslauriers	20	3	0	3	-2	23	0.15	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	18	16.7	10:32	--	5	0	0	0	-3	0
Joseph Cramarossa	1	0	1	1	0	2	1.00	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	6:55	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Adam Beckman	3	0	1	1	-1	2	0.33	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.0	10:25	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kyle Rau	5	0	0	0	-3	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0	8:49	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dakota Mermis	2	0	0	0	2	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	13:54	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mason Shaw	3	0	0	0	-2	5	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.0	8:59	33.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jon Lizotte	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	14:43	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mitchell Chaffee	2	0	0	0	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	7:27	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Marco Rossi	2	0	0	0	-1	4	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.0	15:35	31.8	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	GP	GS	W	L	OT	SA	SVS	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO	G	A	P	PIM	GP	GS	W	L	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO
Cam Talbot	49	48	32	12	4	1,488	1,356	132	.911	2.76	2864:23	3	2	1	1	0	1	26	22	4	.846	4.15	57:53	0	0
Kaapo Kahkonen	25	23	12	8	3	734	668	66	.910	2.87	1380:58	0	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Marc-Andre Fleury	11	11	9	2	0	334	304	30	.910	2.74	657:54	0	0	5	5	2	3	159	144	15	.906	3.04	296:28	0	0

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Thu, Oct 13	vs NY Rangers	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 15	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Mon, Oct 17	vs Colorado	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 20	vs Vancouver	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	@ Boston	1:00 PM
Tue, Oct 25	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 27	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 29	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 30	@ Chicago	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	vs Montreal	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 3	vs Seattle	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 8	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Wed, Nov 9	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 11	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sun, Nov 13	vs San Jose	6:00 PM
Tue, Nov 15	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	vs Pittsburgh	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	vs Carolina	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 23	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 25	vs Toronto	2:00 PM
Sun, Nov 27	vs Arizona	2:00 PM
Thu, Dec 1	vs Edmonton	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 3	vs Anaheim	2:00 PM
Sun, Dec 4	@ Dallas	3:00 PM
Wed, Dec 7	@ Calgary	8:00 PM
Fri, Dec 9	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 10	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Mon, Dec 12	vs Edmonton	8:00 PM
Wed, Dec 14	vs Detroit	7:30 PM
Fri, Dec 16	vs Chicago	8:00 PM
Sun, Dec 18	vs Ottawa	2:00 PM
Wed, Dec 21	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Thu, Dec 22	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Tue, Dec 27	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 29	vs Dallas	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 31	@ St. Louis	TBD
Wed, Jan 4	vs Tampa Bay	9:30 PM
Sat, Jan 7	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 8	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 10	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 12	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sat, Jan 14	vs Arizona	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 17	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 19	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	@ Florida	6:00 PM
Tue, Jan 24	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 26	vs Philadelphia	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 28	vs Buffalo	9:00 PM
Mon, Feb 6	@ Arizona	9:00 PM
Wed, Feb 8	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Thu, Feb 9	vs Vegas	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 11	vs New Jersey	8:00 PM
Mon, Feb 13	vs Florida	8:00 PM
Wed, Feb 15	vs Colorado	9:30 PM
Fri, Feb 17	vs Dallas	8:00 PM
Sun, Feb 19	vs Nashville	2:00 PM
Tue, Feb 21	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 23	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 24	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 26	vs Columbus	2:00 PM
Tue, Feb 28	vs NY Islanders	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 2	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 4	@ Calgary	10:00 PM
Tue, Mar 7	vs Calgary	8:00 PM
Wed, Mar 8	@ Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Sat, Mar 11	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sun, Mar 12	@ Arizona	9:30 PM
Wed, Mar 15	@ St. Louis	9:30 PM
Sat, Mar 18	vs Boston	2:00 PM
Sun, Mar 19	vs Washington	2:00 PM
Tue, Mar 21	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 23	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	vs Chicago	5:00 PM
Mon, Mar 27	vs Seattle	8:00 PM
Wed, Mar 29	@ Colorado	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 1	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Mon, Apr 3	vs Vegas	8:00 PM
Thu, Apr 6	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 8	vs St. Louis	3:00 PM
Mon, Apr 10	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Tue, Apr 11	vs Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	@ Nashville	8:00 PM

JARED SPURGEON

MARC DESROSIERS-USA TODAY SPORTS

MONTREAL CANADIENS

THN PREDICTION | 8TH IN ATLANTIC

NICK
SUZUKI

DAVID KIROUAC-USA TODAY SPORTS

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD
22-49-11 (.335)

OVERTIME
3-9

SHOOTOUT
3-2

OVERALL
32nd

OFFENSE
2.66 GPG (27th)

DEFENSE
3.87 GAA (32nd)

POWER PLAY
13.7% (31st)

PENALTY KILL
75.6% (27th)

CORSI FOR/60
52.27 (24th)

CORSI AGAINST/60
59.13 (27th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
N. Suzuki (20:31)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
J. Petry (22:07)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Martin St-Louis

GM
Kent Hughes

ARENA
Bell Centre

CAPACITY
21,105

AHL AFFILIATE
Laval Rocket

ECHL AFFILIATE
Trois-Rivieres Lions

PLAYOFF RECORD
18-14 (since 2018)

BY STU COWAN

THINGS CAN ONLY get better for the Canadiens after finishing with the worst record in the NHL last season. They had a spark after Martin St-Louis took over as coach in February, and now they'll have him for a full season. Carey Price remains the biggest question mark after he was limited to five games in 2021-22 following knee surgery and 30 days in the NHL/NHLPA player-assistance program. Price had a platelet-rich plasma (PRP) injection in his knee during the off-season and is doing everything he can to start the season in goal. GM Kent Hughes was able to trade the final four seasons of Shea Weber's contract to Vegas, which is one less headache for him.

Juraj Slafkovsky, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2022 draft, is expected to start the season in Montreal and has created excitement with the fan base. The Habs won't make the playoffs, but they should at least be fun to watch with a lot of young players.

>OFFENSE

Nick Suzuki and Cole Caufield will be counted on to pick up where they left off last season, and Slafkovsky could fit in with them on the No. 1 line. Suzuki led the team with

61 points, followed by Caufield with 43. Caufield scored 22 of his team-high 23 goals in the 37 games after St-Louis took over as coach.

Jeff Petry, who had a down season with 27 points, was still tied as the team's most productive D-man, but he was traded to Pittsburgh. Mike Matheson, acquired in the deal with the Pens, is coming off his best NHL season, with 11 goals and 31 points.

>DEFENSE

Joel Edmundson is the only blueliner left from the Canadiens team that went to the Stanley Cup final in 2021. Matheson will bring some much-needed experience, but the Habs will be very young on the back end with Justin Barron, Jordan Harris and Kaiden Guhle all expected to get a chance to play along with veterans Edmundson, David Savard and Chris Wideman.

Whomever replaces Luke Richardson as assistant coach in charge of the defense will have his work cut out for him and can expect plenty of growing pains.

COLE CAUFIELD

ERIC BOLTE-USA TODAY SPORTS

>GOALTENDING

Even if Price is healthy, a best-case scenario would see him play about 50 games, with Jake Allen in net for the rest. In case Price is limited or can't play, the Habs signed Sam Montembeault to a two-year deal as an insurance policy. Allen and Montembeault proved last season that neither is capable of handling the No. 1 job alone, so there would need to be a rotation between them, with Cayden Primeau waiting in the wings with AHL Laval.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

The special teams were a big problem last year, as the Canadiens ranked 31st in the NHL on the power play (13.7 percent) and 27th in penalty killing (75.6 percent). Suzuki led the team with eight power-play goals. Montreal got only one PP goal from its defensemen (Ben Chiarot), while Wideman had 12 PP assists. A team's best penalty-killer is usually the goalie, and Montreal really missed Price.

>INTANGIBLES

The Canadiens didn't have a real captain last year since Weber was rarely around the team, remaining at his home in Kelowna, B.C. That will change this season – with Suzuki the leading candidate to take on the role – which should help solidify the leadership group. St-Louis was also learning on the fly to coach in the NHL, but he's a quick learner and will be much more prepared this time around.

>ROOKIES

All eyes will be on Slafkovsky, but he's not the only rookie with a good chance of making the team. Guhle almost made the squad last year before being sent back to junior, and Harris didn't look out of place after joining Montreal following the completion of his NCAA career at Northeastern. Barron, acquired from Colorado in the Artturi Lehkonen trade, also looked good with the Habs in five games before a season-ending ankle injury.

CUP ODDS

100/1

>X-FACTOR

Montreal will be much better if Price is healthy and can play close to the way he did during the 2021 postseason. If Price can't play, it will be another long year.

>THE BRASS

Hughes has made a lot of smart moves since taking over as GM in January, saying he wants a team with skill and speed that plays smart. Hughes, St-Louis and Jeff Gorton, the executive vice-president of hockey operations, work well together and are all on the same page as they look to build a team that can win on a consistent basis. This will be their first full season working together on a rebuild that is expected to take at least three years. H

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Juraj Slafkovsky	**1.** Nick Suzuki	**1.** Cole Caufield
2. Jonathan Drouin	**2.** Kirby Dach	**2.** Josh Anderson
3. Mike Hoffman	**3.** Christian Dvorak	**3.** Brendan Gallagher
4. Rem Pitlick	**4.** Jake Evans	**4.** Evgenii Dadonov
5. Paul Byron	**5.** Mitchell Stephens	**5.** Joel Armia

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Mike Matheson	**6.** Kaiden Guhle	**1.** Carey Price
2. Joel Edmundson	**7.** Chris Wideman	**2.** Jake Allen
3. David Savard	**8.** Corey Schueneman	**3.** Sam Montembeault
4. Justin Barron	**9.** Mattias Norlinder	✚ INJURED
5. Jordan Harris	**10.** Madison Bowey	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Jeff Petry, D; Shea Weber, D; Alexander Romanov, D; Ryan Poehling, C; Mathieu Perreault, LW; Cedric Paquette, LW; Kale Clague, D

JURAJ SLAFKOVSKY

FUTURE WATCH

GM KENT HUGHES MADE a major splash in his first draft – hosted by Montreal, nonetheless – by taking Juraj Slafkovsky first overall. That meant giving up the chance to get a high-end center, but Slafkovsky is a beast on the wing, and his shot will keep Habs fans happy for a long time. Meanwhile, the system already included great-looking blueliners in Kaiden Guhle, Justin Barron, Jordan Harris and Mattias Norlinder, a couple of whom will be ready this year.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Juraj Slafkovsky, LW

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** TPS (Fin.)

Sharpshooting winger has big-league size and strength. Olympic MVP is ready for next step.

Acquired 1st overall, 2022 **NHL** '22-23

2. Kaiden Guhle, D

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Edmonton (WHL)

Late camp cut is strong skater with big shot and put up good numbers. Future-captain material.

Acquired 16th overall, 2020 **NHL** '23-24

3. Justin Barron, D

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Colorado (AHL)

Ran an AHL PP unit, and right-shot 'D' are coveted. Path clearer in Montreal than Colorado.

Acquired From Col, March 2022 **NHL** '22-23

4. Filip Mesar, RW

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Poprad (Svk.)

Defensively savvy with a touch of offensive pop. His skating really elevates his value.

Acquired 26th overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

5. Owen Beck, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Mississauga (OHL)

No flash, but he makes good use of his skills. Won 60 percent of his faceoffs last season.

Acquired 33rd overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

6. Cayden Primeau, G

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Laval (AHL)

Pegged as future starter, but he still needs seasoning in minors. Great athlete and good size.

Acquired 199th overall, 2017 **NHL** '23-24

7. Logan Mailloux, D

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** London (OHL)

Productive upon joining Knights after half-year suspension for violating OHL conduct policy.

Acquired 31st overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

8. Mattias Norlinder, D

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Frolunda (Swe.)

Swift skater and efficient puck-mover got taste of NHL. Chose return to Sweden over AHL.

Acquired 64th overall, 2019 **NHL** '23-24

9. Jordan Harris, D

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Northeastern (HE)

Beautiful stride and solid defensively with great stick. Northeastern captain a natural leader.

Acquired 71st overall, 2018 **NHL** '22-23

10. Sean Farrell, LW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Harvard (ECAC)

Undersized but a skilled playmaker who finds passing seams. Led U.S. in scoring at Olympics.

Acquired 124th overall, 2020 **NHL** '25-26

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Jake Allen	32	Montreal	35	9	20	4	3.30	.905
Emmett Croteau	18	Waterloo (USHL)	35	16	16	3	3.00	.899
Frederik Dichow	21	Kristianstad (Swe2)	28	18	9	0	2.27	.930
Jakub Dobes	21	Ohio St. (Big10)	35	21	12	2	2.26	.934
Samuel Montembeault	25	Montreal	38	8	18	6	3.77	.891
Carey Price	35	Montreal	5	1	4	0	3.63	.878
Cayden Primeau	23	Laval (AHL)	33	16	12	5	2.94	.909
Joe Vrbetic	19	North Bay (OHL)	45	29	10	6	2.87	.906

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Justin Barron	20	Colorado (AHL)	43	5	15	20	8
Madison Bowey	27	Abbotsford (AHL)	53	8	20	28	80
Joel Edmundson	29	Montreal	24	3	3	6	35
Adam Engstrom	18	Djurgarden (Swe Jr.)	45	8	20	28	20
Gianni Fairbrother	22	Laval (AHL)	25	1	6	7	46
Kaiden Guhle	20	PA/Edm (WHL)	42	7	33	40	29
Jordan Harris	22	Northeastern (HE)	39	5	15	20	14
Arvid Henrikson	24	L. Superior St. (Big10)	35	0	5	5	56
Lane Hutson	18	USA U18 (NTDP)	60	10	53	63	51
Dmitri Kostenko	20	Voskresensk (Rus2)	40	4	10	14	40
Otto Leskinen	25	Jokerit (KHL)	35	4	11	15	8
Logan Mailloux	19	London (OHL)	12	3	6	9	13
Mike Matheson	28	Pittsburgh	74	11	20	31	33
Mattias Norlinder	22	Frolunda (Swe)	21	0	2	2	2
Petteri Nurmi	20	HPK (Fin)	58	1	3	4	32
David Savard	31	Montreal	62	3	14	17	36
Corey Schueneman	27	Laval (AHL)	32	4	7	11	12
Daniil Sobolev	19	Windsor (OHL)	62	2	15	17	36
Jayden Struble	21	Northeastern (HE)	34	3	11	14	65
Miguel Tourigny	20	Blain/Bath (QMJHL)	35	12	28	40	43
William Trudeau	19	Charlottetown (QMJHL)	68	8	36	44	51
Chris Wideman	32	Montreal	64	4	23	27	67
Arber Xhekaj	21	Kit/Ham (OHL)	51	12	22	34	138

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Josh Anderson	28	Montreal	69	19	13	32	65
Joel Armia	29	Montreal	60	6	8	14	14
Owen Beck	18	Mississauga (OHL)	68	21	30	51	14
Alex Belzile	31	Laval (AHL)	32	10	12	22	23
Blake Biondi	20	Minn.-Duluth (NCHC)	42	17	11	28	16
Paul Byron	33	Montreal	27	4	3	7	2
Cole Caufield	21	Montreal	67	23	20	43	10
Lucas Condotta	24	UMass-Lowell (HE)	33	10	13	23	25
Kirby Dach	21	Chicago	70	9	17	26	43
Evgeni Dadonov	33	Vegas	78	20	23	43	18
Jared Davidson	20	Seattle (WHL)	64	42	47	89	68
Jonathan Drouin	27	Montreal	34	6	14	20	23
Christian Dvorak	26	Montreal	56	11	22	33	24
Jake Evans	26	Montreal	72	13	16	29	22
Sean Farrell	20	Harvard (ECAC)	24	10	18	28	11
Brendan Gallagher	30	Montreal	56	7	17	24	69
Alexander Gordin	21	Stupino (Rus Jr.)	16	6	6	12	6
Jack Gorniak	23	Wisconsin (Big10)	37	5	10	15	14
Cedrick Guindon	18	Owen Sound (OHL)	68	30	29	59	16
Cameron Hillis	22	Laval (AHL)	24	5	4	9	14
Rafael Harvey-Pinard	23	Laval (AHL)	69	21	35	56	20
Emil Heineman	20	Leksand (Swe)	38	11	5	16	20
Mike Hoffman	32	Montreal	67	15	20	35	32
Oliver Kapanen	19	KalPa (Fin)	11	7	8	15	4
Riley Kidney	19	Acadie-Bath. (QMJHL)	66	30	70	100	56
Filip Mesar	18	Poprad (Svk)	37	8	8	16	8
Jan Mysak	20	Hamilton (OHL)	61	34	30	64	6
Michael Pezzetta	24	Montreal	51	5	6	11	81
Rem Pitlick	25	Min/Mtl	66	15	22	37	24
Rhett Pitlick	21	Minnesota (NCHC)	30	5	13	18	12
Anthony Richard	25	Syracuse (AHL)	40	10	16	26	10
Vinzenz Rohrer	18	Ottawa (OHL)	64	25	23	48	14
Joshua Roy	19	Sherbrooke (QMJHL)	66	51	68	119	22
Nate Schnarr	23	Utica/Lav (AHL)	63	17	19	36	36
Xavier Simoneau	21	Charlottetown (QMJHL)	48	24	62	86	55
Juraj Slafkovsky	18	TPS (Fin)	31	5	5	10	33
Ty Smilanic	20	Quinnipiac (ECAC)	41	13	10	23	34
Jack Smith	20	Sioux Falls (USHL)	10	2	1	3	6
Brett Stapley	23	Denver (NCHC)	41	18	25	43	54
Mitchell Stephens	25	Detroit	27	0	6	6	8
Nick Suzuki	23	Montreal	82	21	40	61	30
Joel Teasdale	23	Laval (AHL)	44	15	13	28	17
Luke Tuch	20	Boston Univ. (HE)	26	6	4	10	16
Jesse Ylonen	22	Laval (AHL)	52	14	22	36	12

SLAFKOVSKY: ANDREA CARDIN/HHOF-IIHF IMAGES

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																			2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	P/GP	EVG	EVP	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	OTG	GWG	S	S%	TOI/GP	FOW%	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM
Nick Suzuki	82	21	40	61	-29	30	0.74	12	38	8	20	1	3	0	4	186	11.3	20:31	49.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cole Caufield	67	23	20	43	-24	10	0.64	18	30	5	13	0	0	2	3	188	12.2	16:41	50	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mike Hoffman	67	15	20	35	-24	32	0.52	11	22	4	13	0	0	0	3	154	9.7	17:03	60	--	--	--	--	--	--
Christian Dvorak	56	11	22	33	-19	24	0.59	10	28	1	5	0	0	0	1	87	12.6	17:22	56.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Josh Anderson	69	19	13	32	-25	65	0.46	17	29	2	3	0	0	0	1	151	12.6	17:14	47.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Artturi Lehkonen	58	13	16	29	0	14	0.5	10	26	1	1	2	2	0	1	110	11.8	14:44	34.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jake Evans	72	13	16	29	-5	22	0.4	13	28	0	0	0	1	0	0	124	10.5	15:36	49.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jeff Petry	68	6	21	27	-11	36	0.4	6	23	0	3	0	1	0	1	124	4.8	22:07	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Chris Wideman	64	4	23	27	-25	67	0.42	4	15	0	12	0	0	0	1	76	5.3	14:53	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tyler Toffoli	37	9	17	26	-8	4	0.7	4	17	4	8	1	1	0	0	100	9	17:31	38.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rem Pitlick	46	9	17	26	-9	12	0.57	8	24	0	1	1	1	0	0	52	17.3	17:17	43.9	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brendan Gallagher	56	7	17	24	-7	69	0.43	2	17	5	7	0	0	0	0	142	4.9	15:01	37.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jonathan Drouin	34	6	14	20	-9	23	0.59	6	16	0	4	0	0	0	0	62	9.7	17:06	47	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ben Chiarot	54	7	11	18	-18	42	0.33	6	15	1	2	0	1	1	1	96	7.3	23:34	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ryan Poehling	57	9	8	17	-21	6	0.3	7	15	2	2	0	0	0	1	91	9.9	12:12	46.4	--	--	--	--	--	--
David Savard	62	3	14	17	-22	36	0.27	3	16	0	0	0	1	0	0	66	4.6	20:47	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Joel Armia	60	6	8	14	-15	14	0.23	4	10	1	3	1	1	0	0	103	5.8	13:43	17.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brett Kulak	56	3	10	13	-10	33	0.23	3	12	0	0	0	1	0	0	63	4.8	17:58	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alexander Romanov	79	3	10	13	-9	53	0.16	3	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	107	2.8	20:24	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Laurent Dauphin	38	4	8	12	-10	25	0.32	4	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	8	13:18	42.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Michael Pezzetta	51	5	6	11	-7	81	0.22	5	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	10.2	7:50	54.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mathieu Perreault	25	4	5	9	2	4	0.36	4	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	27	14.8	11:15	50.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Paul Byron	27	4	3	7	-8	2	0.26	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	33	12.1	12:36	47.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Joel Edmundson	24	3	3	6	-1	35	0.25	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	9.4	19:35	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Corey Schueneman	24	2	4	6	-5	8	0.25	2	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	30	6.7	16:36	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sami Niku	13	0	6	6	3	2	0.46	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	14	0	15:17	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kale Clague	25	2	3	5	-8	18	0.2	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	10	16:15	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jesse Ylonen	14	2	3	5	2	2	0.36	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	12.5	11:34	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tyler Pitlick	14	1	2	3	-6	4	0.21	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	5.9	9:36	50	--	--	--	--	--	--
Justin Barron	5	1	1	2	-2	0	0.4	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	7.7	19:01	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cedric Paquette	24	0	2	2	-6	25	0.08	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	8:52	29.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lukas Vejdemo	6	1	0	1	-3	0	0.17	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	10:38	41.9	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jordan Harris	10	1	0	1	3	8	0.1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	11.1	16:17	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rafael Harvey-Pinard	4	1	0	1	-2	0	0.25	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	16.7	13:05	0	--	--	--	--	--	--
William Lagesson	3	0	1	1	2	0	0.33	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	15:04	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Adam Brooks	4	0	1	1	-1	0	0.25	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	10:34	16.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mattias Norlinder	6	0	1	1	2	2	0.17	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	12:18	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alex Belzile	11	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	10:24	36.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brandon Baddock	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	8:24	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cameron Hillis	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	10:15	50	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	GP	GS	W	L	OT	SA	SVS	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO	G	A	P	PIM	GP	GS	W	L	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO
Jake Allen	35	35	9	20	4	1,123	1,016	107	0.905	3.3	1947:40	2	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sam Montembeault	38	30	8	18	6	1,124	1,002	122	0.891	3.77	1942:49	1	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Andrew Hammond	4	3	3	0	0	100	92	8	0.92	2.4	200:10	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Carey Price	5	5	1	4	0	148	130	18	0.878	3.63	297:30	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cayden Primeau	12	9	1	7	1	302	262	40	0.868	4.62	519:13	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Michael McNiven	1	0	0	0	0	7	4	3	0.571	9	20:00	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Wed, Oct 12	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Fri, Oct 14	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 15	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 17	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 20	vs Arizona	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 25	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 27	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 29	@ St. Louis	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 3	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 5	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 8	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Wed, Nov 9	vs Vancouver	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 12	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 15	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 22	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 23	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 25	@ Chicago	2:00 PM
Tue, Nov 29	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 1	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 3	@ Edmonton	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 5	@ Vancouver	10:30 PM
Tue, Dec 6	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 10	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 12	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 14	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 15	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 17	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 19	@ Arizona	10:00 PM
Wed, Dec 21	@ Colorado	8:00 PM
Fri, Dec 23	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Wed, Dec 28	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 29	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 31	@ Washington	4:00 PM
Tue, Jan 3	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 5	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 7	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 9	vs Seattle	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 12	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 14	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 15	@ NY Rangers	5:00 PM
Tue, Jan 17	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 19	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 24	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 26	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 28	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 31	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 11	vs NY Islanders	12:30 PM
Sun, Feb 12	vs Edmonton	12:30 PM
Tue, Feb 14	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 16	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 21	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 24	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 25	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 28	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Thu, Mar 2	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Fri, Mar 3	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 5	@ Vegas	6:00 PM
Tue, Mar 7	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 9	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 13	vs Colorado	7:30 PM
Tue, Mar 14	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 16	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 18	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 21	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 23	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 27	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 28	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 30	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 1	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 4	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 6	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 8	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Wed, Apr 12	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	vs Boston	7:00 PM

CAREY
PRICE

ERIC BOLTE-USA TODAY SPORTS

NASHVILLE PREDATORS

THN PREDICTION | 4TH IN CENTRAL

ROMAN JOSI

NICK TURCHIARO-USA TODAY SPORTS

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD
45-30-7 (.591)
OVERTIME
6-5
SHOOTOUT
4-2
OVERALL
16th
OFFENSE
3.20 GPG (13th)
DEFENSE
3.05 GAA (17th)
POWER PLAY
24.4% (6th)
PENALTY KILL
79.2% (18th)
CORSI FOR/60
54.3 (19th)
CORSI AGAINST/60
54.92 (15th)
ICE TIME LEAD (F)
M. Granlund (20:25)
ICE TIME LEAD (D)
R. Josi (25:33)

FAST FACTS

COACH
John Hynes
GM
David Poile
ARENA
Bridgestone Arena
CAPACITY
17,113
AHL AFFILIATE
Milwaukee Admirals
ECHL AFFILIATE
N/A
PLAYOFF RECORD
12-21 (since 2018)

BY DAVID BOCLAIR

GETTING SWEPT OUT of the playoffs got old quickly. So, Nashville has reversed course on a short-lived youth movement. After going winless in its first-round playoff series against eventual champion Colorado, the Predators traded away three young players who a year earlier were considered a big part of their future. Right winger Luke Kunin, 24, acquired from Minnesota in October 2020 and signed to a two-year contract, was sent to San Jose, and defenseman Philippe Myers, 25, acquired in a trade last off-season, was shipped to Tampa Bay along with prospect Grant Mismash.

The primary return on those moves was 33-year-old defenseman Ryan McDonagh, who will add experience and grit to the blueline. He's also now the oldest player on the roster. Nashville's offense, which set records in 2021-22, returns largely intact.

>OFFENSE

Much attention was paid to the protracted talks with Filip Forsberg. They eventually resulted in an eight-year, $68-million contract days before the start of free agency. Forsberg became the franchise's all-time leader in goals last season, and the new deal ensures he will add significantly to his current total of 220, which is 10 more than previous record-holder David Legwand.

Forsberg's deal ensured that last season's nine highest-scoring forwards return, several of them after notable 2021-22 performances. Forsberg (42) and Matt Duchene (43) became the first Predators to score 40-plus goals in a season, and Mikael Granlund became the third Preds forward with at least 50 assists (53). The expectation is for much of the same – if not even more – in 2022-23.

>DEFENSE

Any discussion of the Preds' blueline begins with Roman Josi, the Norris Trophy runner-up (he won it in 2019-20) who put up eye-popping offensive numbers last season. Josi established personal bests with 23 goals and 73 assists, and his 96 points were the most by an NHL defensemen since 1992-93. At 32, Josi continues to put pressure on opposing teams with his elite skating and puckhandling.

McDonagh provides a sturdy stay-at-home option who can potentially play on the top pair and allow Josi to do more of what he does so well without exposing the back end. McDonagh also should lessen the burden on 2016 first-round pick Dante Fabbro and allow him to continue his development on a lower pairing, perhaps the second unit alongside Mattias Ekholm. Nashville's defense corps won't intimidate anyone with its physicality, but it offers more matchup options from night to night than last season.

JUUSE SAROS

BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS

>GOALTENDING

Juuse Saros was everything franchise officials wanted following Pekka Rinne's retirement – right up until the point he got injured in late April and was unavailable for the playoffs. That, and the fact his play tailed off prior to the injury – his save percentage (.902) and goals-against average (3.15) in 11 April appearances were off from the rest of the campaign – raised questions about whether the 5-foot-11, 180-pounder is durable enough to play 60-plus games every season.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

The Predators were one of five teams with at least 63 power-play goals last season, but more than three-quarters of those came from just four players – Duchene (16), Josi (11), Ryan Johansen (11) and Forsberg (10). All four players were part of the first unit, which also included Granlund, who had 25 assists and 28 points with the man advantage. No other Preds player finished with more than three PP goals or nine PP points. The search for a productive second unit – or at least a semi-productive one – will be a primary focus of the pre-season and the early part of the regular season.

>INTANGIBLES

It has been five years – a long time in NHL terms – since the Preds played in the Stanley Cup final. In McDonagh, Nashville has a player who has been to the playoffs in each of his 12 NHL seasons and won back-to-back Cups with Tampa Bay in 2020 and 2021. Nashville also added free-agent left winger Zach Sanford, who won a Cup with St. Louis in 2019. In trying to close the gap on Colorado, Nashville clearly put a premium on playoff experience.

>ROOKIES

There is no immediate need for him, but all eyes will be on top goalie prospect Yaroslav Askarov nonetheless. The No. 11 overall pick in 2020 signed his entry-level contract in May. If he looks ready, the 6-foot-3 stopper could lighten Saros' load or take over completely if Saros gets hurt.

CUP ODDS

30/1

>X-FACTOR

In 2020-21, right winger Eeli Tolvanen showed promise with six power-play goals. Last season, he ranked fifth among the Predators' forwards in hits. If the 23-year-old Finnish native can add the consistent offensive production – particularly at 5-on-5 – that the team envisioned when he was drafted 30th overall in 2017, he'll make Nashville a much more difficult matchup.

>THE BRASS

GM David Poile's quest for a Stanley Cup enters its fifth decade. Poile was 32 when he took over as Washington's personnel chief back in 1982. After 15 years with the Capitals, he's the only GM Nashville has had since the franchise joined the NHL in 1998-99, but his teams have advanced past the second round just twice in his career.

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Filip Forsberg	1. Mikael Granlund	1. Matt Duchene
2. Eeli Tolvanen	2. Ryan Johansen	2. Nino Niederreiter
3. Tanner Jeannot	3. Colton Sissons	3. Yakov Trenin
4. Zach Sanford	4. Cody Glass	4. Philip Tomasino
5. John Leonard	5. Tommy Novak	5. Michael McCarron

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Roman Josi	6. Jeremy Lauzon	1. Juuse Saros
2. Ryan McDonagh	7. Mark Borowiecki	2. Kevin Lankinen
3. Mattias Ekholm	8. Roland McKeown	3. Yaroslav Askarov
4. Alexandre Carrier	9. Kevin Gravel	
5. Dante Fabbro	10. Spencer Stastney	

✚ INJURED

🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Matt Benning, D; Nick Cousins, C; Luke Kunin, LW; Philippe Myers, D; David Rittich, G; Matt Luff, RW; Ben Harpur, D

YAROSLAV
ASKAROV

FUTURE WATCH

FOR A TEAM THAT hasn't picked in the top-10 in a decade, the Nashville Predators have still found some high-end players, including in 2022 when competitive Finnish sniper Joakim Kemell fell out of the top tier and landed in their laps at No. 17. But the big headline right now is top goalie prospect Yaroslav Askarov, who is slated to make his North American debut. Luke Prokop (WHL) and Ryan Ufko (NCAA) are the strongest names on the back end.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Yaroslav Askarov, G

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** SKA-Neva (Rus.2)

Super stopper combines size, skill and athleticism into one package. Preds want him in AHL.

Acquired 11th overall, 2020 **NHL** '23-24

2. Fedor Svechkov, C

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** SKA-Neva (Rus.2)

Among best playmakers in Russian junior circuit. Made rare switch from wing to center.

Acquired 19th overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

3. Joakim Kemell, RW

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** JYP (Fin.)

Natural goal-scorer has shot compared to Alex Ovechkin's. Speed makes him dangerous.

Acquired 17th overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

4. Luke Evangelista, RW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** London (OHL)

Explosive junior scorer has dominated OHL competition. Strength needed for pro game.

Acquired 42nd overall, 2020 **NHL** '23-24

5. Zach L'Heureux, LW

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Halifax (QMJHL)

Wrecking-ball winger is a pain to play against in every sense. Skating must be a target area.

Acquired 27th overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

6. Cody Glass, C

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Milwaukee (AHL)

Sixth pick in 2017 still has upside but plagued by injury bug. Health and consistency are keys.

Acquired From Veg, July 2021 **NHL** '22-23

7. Juuso Parssinen, LW

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** TPS (Fin.)

Two-way gem had three points in nine AHL playoff games. Three hockey-player brothers.

Acquired 210th overall, 2019 **NHL** '23-24

8. Adam Ingram, LW

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Youngstown (USHL)

Penchant for getting to high-quality scoring areas. Tall and thin, so bulking up won't hurt.

Acquired 82nd overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

9. Egor Afanasyev, LW

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Milwaukee (AHL)

Big and strong with a heavy, big-league shot. Settled nicely into AHL role last season.

Acquired 45th overall, 2019 **NHL** '23-24

10. Semyon Chistyakov, D

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Omsk (KHL)

Undersized defender doesn't shy away from dirty areas. Reliable on the breakout.

Acquired 117th overall, 2019 **NHL** '24-25

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Yaroslav Askarov	20	SKA-Neva (Rus2)	9	5	2	2	2.57	.899
Devin Cooley	25	Milwaukee (AHL)	24	9	10	4	3.06	.898
Ethan Haider	21	Clarkson (ECAC)	29	13	10	5	2.39	.908
Connor Ingram	25	Milwaukee (AHL)	54	30	17	9	2.70	.915
Kevin Lankinen	27	Chicago	32	8	15	6	3.50	.891
Juuse Saros	27	Nashville	67	38	25	3	2.64	.918
Konstantin Volkov	24	Assat (Fin)	37	7	25	4	2.87	.897
Tomas Vomacka	23	Florida (ECHL)	22	10	6	5	3.17	.897

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Mark Borowiecki	33	Nashville	57	0	4	4	151
Alexandre Carrier	26	Nashville	77	3	27	30	50
Semyon Chistyakov	21	Omsk (KHL)	66	0	2	2	6
Marc Del Gaizo	22	Milwaukee (AHL)	67	6	13	19	28
Mattias Ekholm	32	Nashville	76	6	25	31	44
Dante Fabbro	26	Nashville	66	3	21	24	24
Kevin Gravel	30	Stockton (AHL)	59	3	11	14	11
Jordan Gross	27	Colorado (AHL)	61	10	55	65	44
Roman Josi	32	Nashville	80	23	73	96	46
Kasper Kulonummi	18	Jokerit (Fin Jr.)	40	3	26	29	12
Jeremy Lauzon	25	Sea/Nsh	66	2	5	7	81
Jack Matier	19	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	66	3	27	30	50
Ryan McDonagh	33	Tampa Bay	71	4	22	26	16
Roland McKeown	26	Colorado (AHL)	61	3	17	20	49
Anton Olsson	19	Malmo (Swe)	39	2	4	6	6
Luke Prokop	20	Cgy/Edm (WHL)	55	10	23	33	34
Luke Reid	21	New Hampshire (HE)	34	3	5	8	12
Graham Sward	18	Spokane (WHL)	57	10	33	43	46
Spencer Stastney	22	Notre Dame (Big10)	39	7	20	27	8
Ryan Ufko	19	UMass (HE)	37	5	26	31	12
Adam Wilsby	22	Skelleftea (Swe)	51	4	13	17	28
Vladislav Yeryomenko	23	Minsk (KHL)	40	3	3	6	14

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Egor Afanasyev	21	Milwaukee (AHL)	74	12	21	33	45
Alexander Campbell	21	Clarkson (ECAC)	37	16	17	33	2
Matt Duchene	31	Nashville	78	43	43	86	38
Luke Evangelista	21	London (OHL)	62	55	56	111	48
Gunnarwolfe Fontaine	22	Northeastern (HE)	39	8	17	25	20
Filip Forsberg	28	Nashville	69	42	42	84	22
Cody Glass	23	Milwaukee (AHL)	66	14	48	62	20
Mikael Granlund	30	Nashville	80	11	53	64	33
Jimmy Huntington	23	Syr/Mil (AHL)	61	13	22	35	14
Adam Ingram	18	Youngstown (USHL)	54	26	29	55	30
Tanner Jeannot	25	Nashville	81	24	17	41	130
Ryan Johansen	30	Nashville	79	26	37	63	53
Mark Jankowski	28	Rochester (AHL)	32	10	17	27	18
Joakim Kemell	18	JYP (Fin)	39	15	8	23	2
Simon Knak	20	Davos (Swi)	42	6	5	11	10
Jachym Kondelik	22	Connecticut (HE)	36	12	21	33	16
John Leonard	24	San Jose (AHL)	45	17	15	32	6
Zachary L'Heureux	19	Halifax (QMJHL)	46	22	34	56	64
Michael McCarron	27	Nashville	51	7	7	14	70
Chase McLane	22	Penn St. (Big10)	30	3	10	13	22
Navrin Mutter	21	Ham/Kit (OHL)	62	11	11	22	64
Nino Niederreiter	30	Carolina	75	24	20	44	34
Tommy Novak	25	Milwaukee (AHL)	42	7	27	34	16
Markus Nurmi	24	TPS (Fin)	56	20	19	39	49
Cole O'Hara	20	Tri-City (USHL)	58	25	48	73	47
Juuso Parssinen	21	TPS (Fin)	41	9	23	32	8
Zach Sanford	27	Ott/Wpg	80	9	12	21	13
Kiefer Sherwood	27	Colorado (AHL)	57	36	39	75	34
Colton Sissons	28	Nashville	79	7	21	28	30
Cole Smith	26	Milwaukee (AHL)	59	21	20	41	62
Benjamin Strinden	20	Muskegon (USHL)	61	25	31	56	70
Fyodor Svechkov	19	SKA-Neva (Rus2)	30	9	22	31	12
Eeli Tolvanen	23	Nashville	75	11	12	23	16
Philip Tomasino	21	Nashville	76	11	21	32	10
Yakov Trenin	25	Nashville	80	17	7	24	46
Isak Walther	21	Vermont (HE)	35	3	5	8	6

ASKAROV: PHOTO BY SKA ST. PETERSBURG

STATS | 2021-22

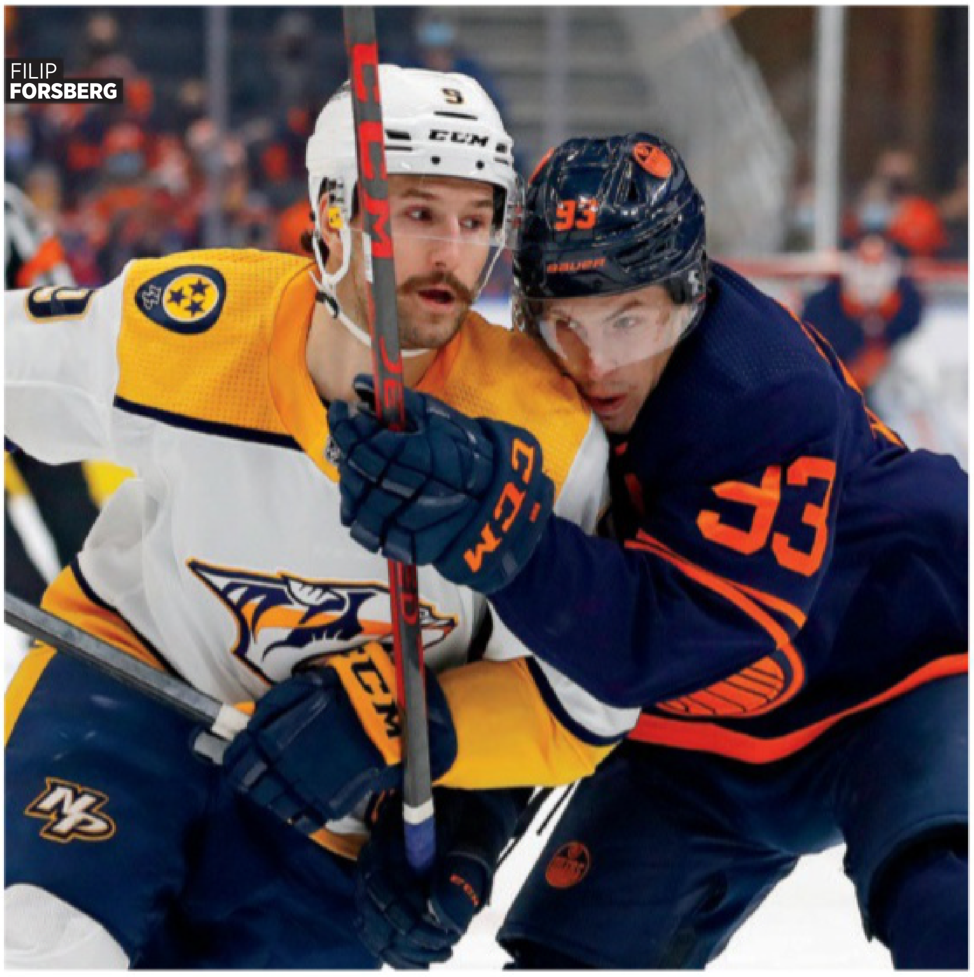
	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																		2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**	**P/GP**	**EVG**	**EVP**	**PPG**	**PPP**	**SHG**	**SHP**	**OTG**	**GWG**	**S**	**S%**	**TOI/GP**	**FOW%**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**
Roman Josi	80	23	73	96	13	46	1.20	12	59	11	37	0	0	0	2	281	8.2	25:33	--	4	1	1	2	-3	0
Matt Duchene	78	43	43	86	6	38	1.10	27	57	16	29	0	0	3	6	228	18.9	19:01	54.1	4	3	1	4	1	0
Filip Forsberg	69	42	42	84	12	22	1.22	32	57	10	27	0	0	1	8	226	18.6	18:06	100.0	4	1	0	1	-1	6
Mikael Granlund	80	11	53	64	-9	33	0.80	8	36	3	28	0	0	0	3	117	9.4	20:25	47.2	4	0	3	3	-1	0
Ryan Johansen	79	26	37	63	-2	53	0.80	15	39	11	24	0	0	1	6	118	22.0	16:34	52.6	4	0	2	2	-2	2
Tanner Jeannot	81	24	17	41	2	130	0.51	21	37	2	3	1	1	1	5	124	19.4	15:59	41.7	4	0	1	1	-4	0
Philip Tomasino	76	11	21	32	2	10	0.42	8	23	3	9	0	0	0	3	111	9.9	11:32	38.9	3	0	0	0	-2	12
Mattias Ekholm	76	6	25	31	14	44	0.41	6	26	0	4	0	1	0	1	145	4.1	23:29	--	4	0	2	2	-2	0
Alexandre Carrier	77	3	27	30	26	50	0.39	2	25	1	4	0	1	0	0	95	3.2	20:59	0.0	4	0	3	3	-1	2
Colton Sissons	79	7	21	28	2	30	0.35	6	24	1	4	0	0	0	0	87	8.1	16:10	55.7	4	0	2	2	-1	0
Yakov Trenin	80	17	7	24	7	46	0.30	17	24	0	0	0	0	0	2	136	12.5	14:40	34.3	4	3	0	3	-1	4
Dante Fabbro	66	3	21	24	13	24	0.36	3	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	88	3.4	19:03	--	4	0	0	0	-4	4
Eeli Tolvanen	75	11	12	23	-7	16	0.31	10	17	1	6	0	0	0	1	151	7.3	13:26	0.0	3	1	0	1	-2	2
Luke Kunin	82	13	9	22	-11	99	0.27	13	20	0	2	0	0	0	0	125	10.4	13:50	44.0	4	0	1	1	-2	4
Nick Cousins	68	9	13	22	-8	31	0.32	6	18	3	4	0	0	0	1	103	8.7	12:28	46.9	3	0	0	0	-4	0
Michael McCarron	51	7	7	14	10	70	0.27	6	12	0	1	1	1	0	2	51	13.7	10:23	54.4	2	0	0	0	-3	2
Matt Benning	65	0	11	11	-24	39	0.17	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	61	0.0	16:20	--	3	0	1	1	-2	0
Thomas Novak	27	1	6	7	-4	2	0.26	0	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	25	4.0	11:48	44.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Matt Luff	23	3	3	6	3	4	0.26	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	26	11.5	9:24	100.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Philippe Myers	27	1	3	4	5	12	0.15	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	3.6	14:53	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mark Borowiecki	57	0	4	4	-9	151	0.07	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	0.0	13:07	--	2	0	0	0	-1	0
Matt Tennyson	8	0	3	3	0	4	0.38	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.0	12:55	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jeremy Davies	6	0	2	2	-5	2	0.33	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.0	12:15	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jeremy Lauzon	13	1	0	1	3	14	0.08	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	5.9	17:06	--	3	0	0	0	-3	2
Ben Harpur	19	0	1	1	-10	27	0.05	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0.0	13:44	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mathieu Olivier	10	0	1	1	-3	14	0.10	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.0	10:06	0.0	3	0	0	0	-3	12
Cody Glass	8	0	1	1	0	0	0.13	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.0	11:25	35.1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Rocco Grimaldi	7	0	0	0	0	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0.0	10:56	66.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kole Sherwood	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	8:08	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cole Smith	8	0	0	0	-3	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0	8:50	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**SA**	**SVS**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**
Juuse Saros	67	67	38	25	3	2,107	1,934	173	.918	2.64	3931:42	4	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
David Rittich	17	12	6	3	4	431	382	49	.886	3.57	822:56	0	2	1	1	0	1	13	8	5	.615	19.91	15:04	0	0
Connor Ingram	3	3	1	2	0	91	80	11	.879	3.71	177:45	0	0	4	3	0	3	161	147	14	.913	3.64	230:51	0	0

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Fri, Oct 7	vs San Jose *	2:00 PM
Sat, Oct 8	@ San Jose *	2:00 PM
Thu, Oct 13	vs Dallas	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 15	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Tue, Oct 18	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 20	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	vs Philadelphia	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 27	vs St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 29	vs Washington	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Thu, Nov 3	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 5	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Tue, Nov 8	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Thu, Nov 10	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 12	vs NY Rangers	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 15	vs Minnesota	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	vs NY Islanders	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	vs Tampa Bay	8:00 PM
Mon, Nov 21	vs Arizona	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 23	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 25	vs Colorado	2:00 PM
Sat, Nov 26	vs Columbus	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 29	vs Anaheim	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 1	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 2	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Thu, Dec 8	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 10	vs Ottawa	1:30 PM
Mon, Dec 12	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 13	vs Edmonton	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 15	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 17	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Mon, Dec 19	vs Edmonton	8:00 PM
Wed, Dec 21	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Fri, Dec 23	vs Colorado	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 27	vs Dallas	8:00 PM
Fri, Dec 30	@ Anaheim	5:00 PM
Sat, Dec 31	@ Vegas	3:00 PM
Tue, Jan 3	vs Montreal	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 5	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 6	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 9	@ Ottawa	7:30 PM
Wed, Jan 11	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 12	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 14	vs Buffalo	8:00 PM
Mon, Jan 16	vs Calgary	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 19	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 24	vs Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 26	vs New Jersey	8:00 PM
Tue, Feb 7	vs Vegas	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 11	@ Philadelphia	12:30 PM
Mon, Feb 13	vs Arizona	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 16	vs Boston	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	vs Florida	2:00 PM
Sun, Feb 19	@ Minnesota	2:00 PM
Tue, Feb 21	vs Vancouver	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 23	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sun, Feb 26	@ Arizona	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 28	vs Pittsburgh	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 2	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 4	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Mon, Mar 6	@ Vancouver	10:30 PM
Thu, Mar 9	@ Arizona	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Sun, Mar 12	@ Anaheim	9:30 PM
Tue, Mar 14	vs Detroit	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 16	vs Chicago	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 18	vs Winnipeg	2:00 PM
Sun, Mar 19	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 21	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 23	vs Seattle	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	vs Seattle	2:00 PM
Sun, Mar 26	vs Toronto	6:00 PM
Tue, Mar 28	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 30	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 1	vs St. Louis	1:00 PM
Mon, Apr 3	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Tue, Apr 4	vs Vegas	8:00 PM
Thu, Apr 6	vs Carolina	8:00 PM
Sat, Apr 8	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Mon, Apr 10	@ Calgary	9:30 PM
Thu, Apr 13	vs Minnesota	8:00 PM

**Global Series in Czechia*



FILIP
FORSBERG

PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS

NEW JERSEY DEVILS

THN PREDICTION | **7TH** IN METROPOLITAN

JACK HUGHES

DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD
27-46-9 (.384)

OVERTIME
5-4

SHOOTOUT
3-5

OVERALL
28th

OFFENSE
2.99 GPG (19th)

DEFENSE
3.68 GAA (29th)

POWER PLAY
15.6% (28th)

PENALTY KILL
80.2% (14th)

CORSI FOR/60
57.36 (11th)

CORSI AGAINST/60
56.17 (18th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
J. Hughes (19:34)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
D. Severson (23:36)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Lindy Ruff

GM
Tom Fitzgerald

ARENA
Prudential Center

CAPACITY
16,514

AHL AFFILIATE
Utica Comets

ECHL AFFILIATE
Adirondack Thunder

PLAYOFF RECORD
1-4 (since 2018)

BY STEVE POLITI

THE DEVILS BELIEVE their young core will take the necessary step forward to compete for a playoff spot this season. If that sounds familiar, well, it should. They believed the same last summer and found themselves eliminated long before the games mattered, with their only meaningful victory in 2022 coming in the draft lottery.

So what's different? For starters, an extra year of experience for cornerstone centers Jack Hughes and Nico Hischier, and the belief that the team's goaltending – which finished second-last in the league with a dreadful .881 save percentage – simply has to improve after a series of injuries left the team relying on players unprepared for the NHL level.

It remains to be seen, however, just how big a move the Devils are ready to take. They failed in their pursuit of UFA Johnny Gaudreau, their promising blueline prospects are still developing, and goaltending remains a question mark. Patience is running thin. Fans won't tolerate "maybe next year" again.

>OFFENSE

The Devils thought they had all the advantages in the Gaudreau sweepstakes – their location in his home state, oodles of cap space, longtime ties to GM Tom Fitzgerald – but ended up losing out to Columbus. Fitzgerald found a Plan B in former Tampa Bay veteran Ondrej Palat, a two-way talent who figures to join Hughes on the top line and add firepower to an improving offense.

New Jersey tallied 245 goals, good for 19th in the league and the most for the franchise since 2000-01, with Hughes emerging as the offensive star they hoped he would become when the team drafted him first overall in 2019. The center had 56 points in 49 games, including 26 goals, and his eight-year, $64-million extension kicks in this season. Jesper Bratt (26 goals, 73 points) had a breakout season, more than doubling his career best in points, and there's room for more.

>DEFENSE

The Devils nabbed Dougie Hamilton with a seven-year, $63-million contract in free agency last summer, giving them the puck-moving offensive blueliner alongside veteran Damon Severson the team had sorely lacked. They believe a decidedly less splashy move this summer – namely, adding veteran Brendan Smith to a two-year deal – will increase stability on a blueline unit that had lacked quality depth.

The big question: how long will it take top prospects Luke Hughes, who will start 2022-23 at the University of Michigan, and 2022 No. 2 overall pick Simon Nemec to be ready to become the top defense pairing at the NHL level the Devils desperately need? The answer is soon, but not soon enough for this season.

NICO HISCHIER

JAMES CAREY LAUDER-USA TODAY SPORTS

>GOALTENDING

Fitzgerald said he was "content" with the goaltending situation, but the team's glaring weakness from last season doesn't feel completely settled heading into 2022-23. Mackenzie Blackwood was bad even before a heel injury prematurely ended his 2021-22 campaign. Jonathan Bernier missed nearly all of last season after hip surgery and won't be back for the start of training camp. And newcomer Vitek Vanecek, acquired in a draft-day trade with Washington, was available for a reason after going 20-12-6 with a .908 save percentage and a 2.67 goals-against average in 42 games.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

The Devils' anemic power play – which ranked 28th in the NHL with a 15.6-percent efficiency – has to improve for the team to end its playoff drought. The team hopes Nemec will one day become the right-handed quarterback who teams covet. In the short term, new assistant coach Andrew Brunette is expected to guide the specialists after seeing success – admittedly, with better pieces – building a power-play unit in Florida.

>INTANGIBLES

Fitzgerald said he felt like he was interviewing a coaching candidate when he talked to Palat prior to signing him to a five-year, $30-million deal. The team is counting on Palat's championship pedigree in Tampa Bay to rub off on the Devils' core. There was a sense the team was too young the past few seasons.

>ROOKIES

The question is when, not if, the next wave of rookies become regulars for the Devils. It's too soon for top 'D' prospects Hughes and Nemec to figure into the plans, but it's time for 2020 first-rounder Alexander Holtz to prove he is capable of making an impact.

CUP ODDS

60/1

>X-FACTOR

Erik Haula wasn't the name Devils fans expected to see on the first day of free agency, but Fitzgerald traded Pavel Zacha for the Bruins vet hoping Haula will add a heavy dose of leadership and grit. Haula had 18 goals in a second-line center role for Boston. The Devils will be thrilled if he can provide that level of consistency.

>THE BRASS

With one year left on his contract, Lindy Ruff faces a make-or-break season behind the bench. The Devils have gone 46-76-16 during his two seasons in charge, and while the team has improved, expectations were higher than the third-worst point total in the Eastern Conference. With 782 career wins, Ruff will break a tie with Hall of Fame coach Al Arbour for fifth on the NHL's all-time coaching wins list upon his next victory. Nevertheless, he'll start 2022-23 on the hot seat. H

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Ondrej Palat	1. Jack Hughes	1. Jesper Bratt
2. Yegor Sharangovich	2. Nico Hischier	2. Dawson Mercer
3. Miles Wood	3. Erik Haula	3. Tomas Tatar
4. Andreas Johnsson	4. Michael McLeod	4. Alexander Holtz
5. Tyce Thompson	5. Jesper Boqvist	5. Nathan Bastian

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Dougie Hamilton	6. Jonas Siegenthaler	1. Mackenzie Blackwood
2. Damon Severson	7. Kevin Bahl	2. Vitek Vanecek
3. Ryan Graves	8. Mason Geertsen	3. Jonathan Bernier
4. John Marino	9. Nikita Okhotiuk	✚ INJURED
5. Brendan Smith	10. Reilly Walsh	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Pavel Zacha LW; P.K. Subban, D; Ty Smith D; Janne Kuokkanen, LW; Colton White, D

SIMON
NEMEC

FUTURE WATCH

AFTER GETTING HIGH-END FORWARDS such as Jack Hughes, Alexander Holtz and Dawson Mercer in previous drafts, the Devils have hit on the 'D' more often the past two years. Luke Hughes, a potential Hobey Baker favorite in 2023, returns to Michigan, while Simon Nemec is hoping to go straight from the draft to the show (or at least the AHL). The team is still high on Shakir Mukhamadullin and Kevin Bahl to eventually make the jump to the NHL blueline.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Simon Nemec, D,

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Nitra (Svk.)
Jack-of-all-trades blueliner packs an offensive punch. Uses stick, not strength, to defend.
Acquired 2nd overall, 2022 **NHL** '24-25

2. Luke Hughes, D

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Michigan (Big Ten)
Exceptional offensive blueliner makes transition look easy. Set for one more season in NCAA.
Acquired 4th overall, 2021 **NHL** '23-24

3. Alexander Holtz, RW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Utica (AHL)
Great AHL numbers did not beget NHL production in short stint. He's got star qualities.
Acquired 7th overall, 2020 **NHL** '22-23

4. Shakir Mukhamadullin, D

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Ufa (KHL)
Long, lean and great at using his stick. Also unafraid of dropping shoulder to level opponents.
Acquired 20th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

5. Chase Stillman, RW

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Peterborough (OHL)
Speed and skill, but most love his work ethic. "Dog-on-a-bone mentality," said Devils GM.
Acquired 29th overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

6. Nolan Foote, LW

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Utica (AHL)
Turned heads in NHL cameos, and AHL improvement was stout. Very sound all-around game.
Acquired From TB, Feb. 2020 **NHL** '23-24

7. Kevin Bahl, D

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Utica (AHL)
Nothing flashy, but he gets the job done at both ends of the ice. Came over in Taylor Hall deal.
Acquired From Ari, Dec. 2019 **NHL** '22-23

8. Nico Daws, G

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Utica (AHL)
Big netminder has great form and positioning. 2020 OHL top goalie was good first-year pro.
Acquired 84th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

9. Seamus Casey, D

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** USA U18 (NTDP)
Skitters around the ice like a waterbug. Tends to trade offense for defensive responsibility.
Acquired 46th overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

10. Akira Schmid, G

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Utica (AHL)
Didn't wobble in jump from USHL to AHL. Pair of shutouts amid heavy workload in minors.
Acquired 136th overall, 2018 **NHL** '25-26

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Jonathan Bernier	34	New Jersey	10	4	4	1	3.06	.902
Mackenzie Blackwood	25	New Jersey	25	9	10	4	3.39	.892
Cole Brady	21	Arizona St. (NCAA)	12	5	6	0	3.89	.900
Tyler Brennan	19	Prince George (WHL)	39	11	25	2	3.58	.899
Nico Daws	21	New Jersey	25	10	11	1	3.11	.893
Jakub Malek	20	Vsetin (Cze2)	31	22	9	0	1.95	.932
Akira Schmid	22	Utica (AHL)	38	22	8	5	2.60	.911
Gilles Senn	26	Davos (Swi)	21	7	10	1	3.42	.896
Vitek Vanecek	26	Washington	42	20	12	6	2.67	.908
DEFENSEMEN	**AGE**	**2021-22**	**GP**	**G**	**A**		**PTS**	**PIM**
Kevin Bahl	22	Utica (AHL)	54	3	13		16	52
Artem Barabosha	18	K.A. Moscow (Rus Jr.)	45	4	7		11	16
Seamus Casey	18	USA U18 (NTDP)	48	10	23		33	14
Ethan Edwards	20	Michigan (Big10)	36	3	8		11	16
Mason Geertsen	22	Hartford (AHL)	58	4	7		11	17
Ryan Graves	27	New Jersey	25	0	0		0	77
Jeremy Groleau	22	Utica (AHL)	50	2	7		9	18
Dougie Hamilton	29	New Jersey	62	9	21		30	34
Luke Hughes	19	Michigan (Big10)	41	17	22		39	10
Viktor Hurtig	20	Vax/Mora (Swe Jr.)	47	6	11		17	16
Charlie Leddy	18	USA U18 (NTDP)	55	0	17		17	61
John Marino	25	Pittsburgh	81	1	24		25	23
Case McCarthy	21	Boston Univ.	26	5	9		14	20
Daniil Misyul	21	Yaroslavl (KHL)	41	1	2		3	16
Shakir Mukhamadullin	20	Ufa (KHL)	34	3	4		7	12
Simon Nemec	18	Nitra (Svk)	39	1	25		26	20
Nikita Okhotyuk	21	Utica (AHL)	63	3	9		12	68
Daniil Orlov	18	Sakhalin (Rus Jr.)	54	9	21		30	45
Robbie Russo	29	Utica (AHL)	70	3	32		35	21
Damon Severson	28	New Jersey	80	11	35		46	57
Jonas Siegenthaler	25	New Jersey	70	1	13		14	42
Brendan Smith	33	Carolina	45	4	4		8	36
Michael Vukojevic	21	Utica (AHL)	54	3	14		17	36
Topias Vilen	19	Pelicans (Fin)	50	0	6		6	12
Reilly Walsh	23	Utica (AHL)	70	9	34		43	16
Tyler Wotherspoon	29	Utica (AHL)	53	3	18		21	22
Yegor Zaitsev	24	Dynamo Moscow (KHL)	45	2	7		9	36
FORWARDS	**AGE**	**2021-22**	**GP**	**G**	**A**		**PTS**	**PIM**
Zakhar Bardakov	21	St. Petersburg (KHL)	19	1	2		3	16
Nathan Bastian	24	Sea/NJ	72	12	6		18	65
Jesper Boqvist	22	New Jersey	56	10	13		23	10
Jesper Bratt	24	New Jersey	76	26	47		73	16
Graeme Clarke	21	Utica (AHL)	52	10	14		24	30
Josh Filmon	18	Swift Current (WHL)	67	23	22		45	26
Jack Dugan	24	Henderson (AHL)	35	6	12		18	21
Nolan Foote	21	Utica (AHL)	55	14	18		32	48
Joe Gambardella	28	Utica (AHL)	65	10	21		31	30
Artur Gavrus	28	Zhlobin (Blr)	42	12	16		28	4
Arseny Gritsyuk	21	Omsk (KHL)	39	16	12		28	8
Brian Halonen	23	Michigan Tech (Big10)	37	21	23		44	49
Erik Haula	31	Boston	78	18	26		44	47
Petr Hauser	19	Praha (Cze Jr.)	41	25	34		59	63
Nico Hischier	23	New Jersey	70	21	39		60	17
Alexander Holtz	20	Utica (AHL)	52	26	25		51	10
Jack Hughes	21	New Jersey	49	26	30		56	0
Andreas Johnsson	27	New Jersey	71	13	22		35	30
Michael McLeod	24	New Jersey	77	6	14		20	52
Dawson Mercer	20	New Jersey	82	17	25		42	28
Patrick Moynihan	21	Providence (HE)	38	11	14		25	24
Ondrej Palat	31	Tampa Bay	77	18	31		49	20
Nikola Pasic	21	Sodertalje (Swe2)	29	6	9		15	0
Brian Pinho	27	Hershey (AHL)	27	8	9		17	6
Nikita Popugaev	23	Nizhne/D.Mos (KHL)	25	1	5		6	10
Jaromir Pytlik	21	Kladno (Cze)	30	3	2		5	8
Samu Salminen	19	Jokerit (Fin Jr.)	44	19	29		48	34
Yegor Sharangovich	24	New Jersey	76	24	22		46	23
Artem Shlaine	20	N. Michigan (Big10)	36	7	10		17	6
Chase Stillman	19	Sby/Pbo (OHL)	59	19	30		49	64
Aarne Talvitie	23	Utica (AHL)	68	12	12		24	22
Tomas Tatar	31	New Jersey	76	15	15		30	22
Tyce Thompson	23	Utica (AHL)	16	6	9		15	16
Miles Wood	27	New Jersey	3	0	0		0	4
Fabian Zetterlund	23	Utica (AHL)	58	24	28		52	8

NEMEC: PHOTO BY HK NITRA

STATS | 2021-22

2021-22 REGULAR SEASON / 2022 PLAYOFFS

PLAYER	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	P/GP	EVG	EVP	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	OTG	GWG	S	S%	TOI/GP	FOW%	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM
Jesper Bratt	76	26	47	73	0	16	0.96	23	55	3	18	0	0	0	6	197	13.2	17:26	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nico Hischier	70	21	39	60	-1	17	0.86	17	46	4	12	0	2	1	2	153	13.7	19:21	52.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jack Hughes	49	26	30	56	-16	0	1.14	20	42	6	14	0	0	2	2	165	15.8	19:34	34.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yegor Sharangovich	76	24	22	46	-14	23	0.61	20	41	2	3	2	2	0	3	168	14.3	16:30	40.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Damon Severson	80	11	35	46	-14	57	0.58	6	29	5	16	0	1	0	0	158	7.0	23:36	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dawson Mercer	82	17	25	42	-25	28	0.51	14	35	2	5	1	2	0	2	154	11.0	16:32	35.4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pavel Zacha	70	15	21	36	-21	22	0.51	11	28	4	8	0	0	1	1	148	10.1	16:51	50.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Andreas Johnsson	71	13	22	35	4	30	0.49	12	34	1	1	0	0	0	0	114	11.4	14:22	28.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tomas Tatar	76	15	15	30	-22	22	0.39	13	25	2	5	0	0	0	1	132	11.4	14:50	38.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dougie Hamilton	62	9	21	30	-19	34	0.48	7	22	2	8	0	0	1	1	197	4.6	21:13	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ryan Graves	75	6	22	28	-9	24	0.37	6	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	111	5.4	20:43	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jesper Boqvist	56	10	13	23	-9	10	0.41	10	22	0	1	0	0	0	1	74	13.5	13:08	37.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
P.K. Subban	77	5	17	22	-8	82	0.29	5	21	0	0	0	1	0	1	114	4.4	18:18	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Michael McLeod	77	6	14	20	-13	52	0.26	6	19	0	0	0	1	0	0	78	7.7	13:20	57.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ty Smith	66	5	15	20	-26	22	0.30	5	16	0	4	0	0	0	0	77	6.5	17:30	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Janne Kuokkanen	57	6	11	17	-10	10	0.30	4	15	1	1	1	1	0	1	64	9.4	13:29	12.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nathan Bastian	60	11	5	16	-11	34	0.27	8	12	3	4	0	0	0	1	87	12.6	12:26	47.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jimmy Vesey	68	8	7	15	-24	12	0.22	6	13	0	0	2	2	0	2	110	7.3	14:25	29.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jonas Siegenthaler	70	1	13	14	-5	42	0.20	1	13	0	0	0	1	0	0	92	1.1	20:34	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fabian Zetterlund	14	3	5	8	5	0	0.57	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	8.3	13:21	66.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nolan Foote	7	3	1	4	3	0	0.57	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	30.0	10:22	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kevin Bahl	17	1	3	4	-6	10	0.24	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	6.3	15:45	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Colton White	27	0	4	4	2	8	0.15	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0.0	13:15	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
A.J. Greer	9	1	1	2	0	2	0.22	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	7.1	7:51	66.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nikita Okhotiuk	5	1	1	2	-2	2	0.40	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	20.0	15:05	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alexander Holtz	9	0	2	2	-5	2	0.22	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	12	0.0	12:16	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Marian Studenic	17	1	0	1	-6	0	0.06	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	4.2	11:48	25.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Reilly Walsh	1	0	1	1	0	0	1.00	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	14:23	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mason Geertsen	25	0	0	0	-6	77	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0.0	6:57	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Miles Wood	3	0	0	0	-2	4	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	14:46	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Frederik Gauthier	8	0	0	0	-1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.0	11:06	44.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Chase DeLeo	2	0	0	0	-1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	8:09	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Christian Jaros	11	0	0	0	-4	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.0	11:01	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tyce Thompson	2	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0	14:25	100.0	--	--	--	--	--	--

2021-22 REGULAR SEASON / 2022 PLAYOFFS

PLAYER	GP	GS	W	L	OT	SA	SVS	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO	G	A	P	PIM	GP	GS	W	L	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO
Nico Daws	25	23	10	11	1	617	551	66	.893	3.11	1271:32	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mackenzie Blackwood	25	24	9	10	4	731	652	79	.892	3.39	1399:03	2	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jonathan Bernier	10	8	4	4	1	264	238	26	.902	3.06	510:06	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jon Gillies	19	14	3	10	1	511	452	59	.885	3.76	940:59	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Andrew Hammond	7	7	1	5	1	214	184	30	.860	4.66	386:18	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Scott Wedgewood	3	2	0	2	1	75	66	9	.880	3.19	169:26	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Akira Schmid	6	4	0	4	0	114	95	19	.833	4.83	235:59	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Thu, Oct 13	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 15	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 18	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 20	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 22	vs San Jose	1:00 PM
Mon, Oct 24	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 25	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Fri, Oct 28	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 30	vs Columbus	2:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Thu, Nov 3	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Sat, Nov 5	@ Calgary	10:00 PM
Tue, Nov 8	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 10	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 12	vs Arizona	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 15	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	@ Ottawa	1:00 PM
Mon, Nov 21	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 23	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 25	@ Buffalo	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 26	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 28	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 1	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 3	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 6	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 9	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 12	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 13	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 15	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 17	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 20	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 21	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 23	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 28	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 30	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 1	vs Carolina	3:00 PM
Wed, Jan 4	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 5	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 7	vs NY Rangers	1:00 PM
Tue, Jan 10	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 13	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 14	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Mon, Jan 16	@ San Jose	4:00 PM
Thu, Jan 19	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sun, Jan 22	vs Pittsburgh	2:00 PM
Tue, Jan 24	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 26	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Fri, Jan 27	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Mon, Feb 6	vs Vancouver	7:30 PM
Thu, Feb 9	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 11	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Tue, Feb 14	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 16	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	@ Pittsburgh	5:30 PM
Sun, Feb 19	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 21	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 23	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 25	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 1	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Fri, Mar 3	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 5	@ Arizona	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 7	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 9	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 12	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 14	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 16	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 18	@ Florida	5:00 PM
Sun, Mar 19	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 21	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 24	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 27	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Thu, Mar 30	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 1	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Sun, Apr 2	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 4	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 6	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 8	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 11	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	@ Washington	7:00 PM

JESPER BRATT

MARC DESROSIERS-USA TODAY SPORTS

NEW YORK ISLANDERS

THN PREDICTION | 5TH IN METROPOLITAN

MATHEW BARZAL

DENNIS SCHNEIDLER-USA TODAY SPORTS

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD
37-35-10 (.512)

OVERTIME
1-4

SHOOTOUT
2-6

OVERALL
20th

OFFENSE
2.79 GPG (23rd)

DEFENSE
2.82 GAA (7th)

POWER PLAY
22.1% (12th)

PENALTY KILL
84.2% (4th)

CORSI FOR/60
50.57 (27th)

CORSI AGAINST/60
59.28 (28th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
M. Barzal (18:01)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
N. Dobson (21:28)

BY ALLAN KREDA

THE ISLANDERS missed the playoffs in a messy 2021-22 season in their gleaming new arena after reaching the penultimate round in each of their previous two campaigns. New York appeared to be on the brink of taking the next step, but a 13-game road trip to begin last season plus weeks of COVID-19 decimating the roster and a seven-game losing streak to start their home schedule combined to essentially knock them out of the playoff race before Christmas.

They enter 2022-23 with a new coach in Lane Lambert, who replaced the (surprisingly) fired Barry Trotz after the Islanders finished 37-35-10 in 2021-22, missing the post-season for the first time since 2017-18. Fans are anxious as yet another Islanders era begins under Lambert in his first NHL head coaching job. After making one trade during draft week, GM Lou Lamoriello was quiet during free agency as available stars – such as scoring machine Johnny Gaudreau – signed elsewhere.

Can the Islanders compete for division supremacy with the likes of Carolina, Pittsburgh and the revitalized Rangers? With Washington still in the hunt and Columbus trending up, there won't be many easy nights in the highly competitive Metropolitan Division.

>OFFENSE

The offense revolves around center Mathew Barzal, captain Anders Lee and Brock Nelson, who led the Islanders with a career-best 37 goals. Barzal had 59 points (15 goals and a team-high 44 assists) last season, but he struggled defensively. With his three-year, $21-million contract expiring at the end of this season, the Isles have a huge decision looming as they budget for the future. Lee, 32, returned last season after knee surgery in March 2021 and contributed 28 goals in 76 games.

Jean-Gabriel Pageau, who signed a six-year extension in February 2020, looks to rebound as an offensive force. He had just 18 goals and 39 points last season. The situation is the same for Kyle Palmieri – a solid deadline add in 2021 – who scored only 15 times last season. The Islanders still have one of the most effective fourth lines in the NHL, with Casey Cizikas centering Cal Clutterbuck and Matt Martin. Zach Parise, the 38-year-old winger who was effective last season, returns on a one-year contract.

>DEFENSE

Team defense was a decided strength during the Trotz era, and that trend should continue under Lambert. Ryan Pulock with his booming slapshot, plus the steady play of partner Adam Pelech give the Islanders an elite pairing. Noah Dobson, 22, made tremendous strides in 2021-22, with 13 goals and 51 points. The addition of fellow 22-year-old blueliner Alexander Romanov – in a draft-day

FAST FACTS

COACH
Lane Lambert

GM
Lou Lamoriello

ARENA
UBS Arena

CAPACITY
17,113

AHL AFFILIATE
Bridgeport Islanders

ECHL AFFILIATE
Worcester Railers

PLAYOFF RECORD
28-21 (since 2018)

deal with Montreal – is promising. Romanov brings an excellent combination of size, speed and youth.

As a rule, Islanders defensemen are composed under pressure and fiercely protect the space in front of their goaltenders, a trademark of the Trotz era that should be the same under Lambert.

>GOALTENDING

Semyon Varlamov and Ilya Sorokin have been a solid tandem the past two seasons, and that partnership will continue in 2022-23. After recording an NHL-best seven shutouts and a 19-11-4 record in 2020-21, Varlamov ceded the starting role to Sorokin last year. Varlamov, a playoff star in 2020 and 2021, won only 10 games last season and had a 2.91 goals-against average, while Sorokin was 26-18-8 with a 2.40 GAA in his sophomore campaign. Varlamov, 34, has one year remaining on his contract while Sorokin, 27, is signed for two more.

ANDERS **LEE**

ANNE-MARIE SORVIN-USA TODAY SPORTS

>SPECIAL TEAMS

The power play is always a threat with Lee's big frame planted in the crease, the buzzing Barzal creating plays, and Pulock's heavy shot from the point. Dobson also proved to be a key contributor. The Islanders' penalty kill is perennially strong thanks to the relentless play of all units, including the ability of fleet skaters, such as Pageau, who are dynamic on the power play as well as killing penalties. The same goes for the hardworking Nelson line, which often included Josh Bailey and Anthony Beauvillier. The Cizikas-Clutterbuck-Martin trio also kills penalties and provides energy every time they hit the ice. The buzzsaw unit has been together for seven of the past nine seasons – missing only the two campaigns that Martin played in Toronto.

>INTANGIBLES

Raucous home fans are a boon for the Islanders, who will open their second season at UBS Arena in the middle of October – instead of late November, as they did last year. The Isles' core has been together for many seasons as players and their families live near each other on Long Island. Those off-ice bonds help on-ice performance. Lee has proven to be an excellent captain since John Tavares left for Toronto four years ago. With a bevy of veterans – including lifetime Isles such as Bailey, Cizikas and Nelson – the team has no shortage in the leadership department.

>ROOKIES

Finnish defenseman Robin Salo, 23, could make the NHL roster this season after 40 games with AHL Bridgeport and 21 contests with the Islanders last year. Fellow defenseman Samuel Bolduc, 21, also showed potential over the past two seasons with Bridgeport. The fan base is clamoring for Finnish center Aatu Raty – a second-round pick in 2021 who turns 20 in November – but he likely needs more time to develop his game in Bridgeport.

CUP ODDS

32/1

>X-FACTOR

Barzal, who could become a restricted free agent next July, has to find the proverbial "higher gear" long anticipated by management and fans. Right winger Oliver Wahlstrom's development also bears watching under the new coaching staff. The 2018 first-rounder scored 13 goals in 73 games under Trotz last season.

>THE BRASS

Lamoriello and Trotz were a big boost to the team's fortunes since they were hired together in the summer of 2018, but last year's disappointment led to the shocking change behind the bench. Lamoriello continues to run a tight ship, and with Lambert moving into the role of head coaching after many seasons alongside Trotz in three NHL cities, the Islanders are likely to continue employing the defense-first style that has generated success. H

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Anders Lee	**1.** Mathew Barzal	**1.** Josh Bailey
2. Anthony Beauvillier	**2.** Brock Nelson	**2.** Kyle Palmieri
3. Zach Parise	**3.** Jean-Gabriel Pageau	**3.** Oliver Wahlstrom
4. Matt Martin	**4.** Casey Cizikas	**4.** Cal Clutterbuck
5. Ross Johnston	**5.** Aatu Raty	**5.** Kieffer Bellows

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Ryan Pulock	**6.** Sebastian Aho	**1.** Ilya Sorokin
2. Adam Pelech	**7.** Robin Salo	**2.** Semyon Varlamov
3. Noah Dobson	**8.** Samuel Bolduc	**3.** Jakub Skarek
4. Alexander Romanov	**9.** Parker Wotherspoon	✚ INJURED
5. Scott Mayfield	**10.** Bode Wilde	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Zdeno Chara, D; Andy Greene, D; Thomas Hickey, D; Michael Dal Colle, LW; Cory Schneider, G

AATU
RATY

FUTURE WATCH

DICE-ROLLING HAS BEEN PAYING off for New York. William Dufour, a 2020 fifth-rounder, annihilated the 'Q' and won a Memorial Cup with Saint John. Aatu Raty, who infamously fell to the Isles in the second round of 2021, has been great ever since. In 2022, the Islanders didn't pick in the first round, but they grabbed one of the best skating defensemen in the draft in Calle Odelius in Round 2. His competition for that title? Isaiah George, a fourth-rounder.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Aatu Raty, C

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Jukurit (Fin.)
Draft stock slipped but solid production in Finland is promising. Wicked shot and release.
Acquired 52nd overall, 2021 **NHL** '22-23

2. Calle Odelius, D

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Djurgarden Jr. (Swe.)
His skating is a work of art, and he has finesse. The defensive side of his game needs work.
Acquired 65th overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

3. William Dufour, RW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Saint John (QMJHL)
Hulking winger hard to handle on forecheck and solid scorer. 20-game point streak last year.
Acquired 152nd overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

4. Quinn Finley, LW

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Madison (USHL)
Shows good one-timer skills. One of youngest players in draft eventually bound for Wisconsin.
Acquired 78th overall, 2022 **NHL** '27-28

5. Simon Holmstrom, RW

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Bridgeport (AHL)
Elite skater and plenty of upside. Modest AHL production but has consistency coaches love.
Acquired 23rd overall, 2019 **NHL** '23-24

6. Jakub Skarek, G

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Bridgeport (AHL)
Stoic stopper mechanically sound and rarely scrambles. NHL opportunity is on the horizon.
Acquired 72nd overall, 2018 **NHL** '23-24

7. Otto Koivula, LW

Age 24 **2021-22 Team** Bridgeport (AHL)
The size of an NHL regular without the clear-cut offensive ability. Reliability is a big plus.
Acquired 120th overall, 2016 **NHL** '23-24

8. Samuel Bolduc, D

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Bridgeport (AHL)
Defensive 'D' moves well for 6-foot-4 frame. Injuries have cost him time past two seasons.
Acquired 57th overall, 2019 **NHL** '24-25

9. Isaiah George, D

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** London (OHL)
Prone to the odd mistake, but he makes up for it with his feet. Simple is best for blueliner.
Acquired 98th overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

10. Tristan Lennox, G

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Saginaw (OHL)
Modern puck-handling keeper. Lost 2020-21 led to shaky performance in Saginaw last year.
Acquired 93rd overall, 2021 **NHL** '26-27

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Ken Appleby	27	Worcester (ECHL)	27	14	11	2	2.88	.918
Tristan Lennox	19	Saginaw (OHL)	28	7	20	0	3.20	.888
Jakub Skarek	22	Bridgeport (AHL)	37	16	15	5	3.30	.896
Ilya Sorokin	27	NY Islanders	52	26	18	8	2.40	.925
Henrik Tikkanen	22	MoDo (Swe2)	19	13	4	0	2.50	.903
Semyon Varlamov	34	NY Islanders	31	10	17	2	2.91	.911

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Sebastian Aho	26	NY Islanders	36	2	10	12	10
Samuel Bolduc	21	Bridgeport (AHL)	57	2	5	7	16
Noah Dobson	22	NY Islanders	80	13	38	51	18
Isaiah George	18	London (OHL)	67	6	17	23	32
Christian Krygier	21	Michigan St. (Big10)	36	2	6	8	79
Grant Hutton	27	Bridgeport (AHL)	46	9	11	20	12
Tomas Machu	19	Youngstown (USHL)	34	0	6	6	10
Aleksi Malinen	19	JYP (Fin Jr.)	33	3	14	17	20
Scott Mayfield	30	NY Islanders	61	3	15	18	55
Ben Mirageas	23	Providence (HE)	16	3	1	4	21
Calle Odelius	18	Djurgarden (Swe Jr.)	43	7	23	30	3
Adam Pelech	28	NY Islanders	78	3	25	28	42
Ryan Pulock	27	NY Islanders	56	5	16	21	2
Matias Rajaniemi	20	Pelicans (Fin)	58	1	6	7	24
Alexander Romanov	22	Montreal	79	3	10	13	53
Robin Salo	22	Bridgeport (AHL)	40	4	16	20	8
Andong Song	25	Cornell (ECAC)	DID NOT PLAY				
Bode Wilde	22	Vastervik (Swe2)	40	1	9	10	8
Parker Wotherspoon	25	Bridgeport (AHL)	57	3	21	24	127

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Collin Adams	24	Bridgeport (AHL)	45	5	6	11	8
Andy Andreoff	31	Bridgeport (AHL)	60	18	24	42	57
Josh Bailey	32	NY Islanders	74	14	30	44	6
Cole Bardreau	29	Bridgeport (AHL)	45	14	11	25	6
Mathew Barzal	25	NY Islanders	73	15	44	59	18
Anthony Beauvillier	25	NY Islanders	75	12	22	34	12
Kieffer Bellows	24	NY Islanders	45	6	13	19	19
Cameron Berg	20	Neb.-Omaha (NCHC)	37	8	15	23	14
Casey Cizikas	31	NY Islanders	74	10	6	16	48
Cal Clutterbuck	34	NY Islanders	59	6	9	15	10
Logan Cockerill	23	Boston Univ. (HE)	30	5	6	11	8
William Dufour	20	Saint John (QMJHL)	66	56	60	116	40
Arnaud Durandeau	23	Bridgeport (AHL)	64	15	22	37	30
Quinn Finley	18	Madison (USHL)	39	12	17	29	16
Simon Holmstrom	20	Bridgeport (AHL)	68	12	31	43	8
Ruslan Iskhakov	22	Mannheim (Ger)	25	7	15	22	10
Alex Jefferies	20	Merrimack (HE)	33	10	13	23	10
Blade Jenkins	22	Bridgeport (AHL)	50	7	6	13	9
Ross Johnston	28	NY Islanders	32	2	5	7	44
Otto Koivula	24	Bridgeport (AHL)	56	12	35	47	32
Jeff Kubiak	28	Bridgeport (AHL)	56	8	16	24	18
Daylan Kuefler	20	Kamloops (WHL)	65	38	21	59	97
Anders Lee	32	NY Islanders	76	28	18	46	34
Eetu Liukas	20	TPS (Fin)	48	8	4	12	24
Alexander Ljungkrantz	20	Vita Hasten (Swe2)	34	5	5	10	2
Matt Maggio	19	Windsor (OHL)	66	38	47	85	22
Matt Martin	33	NY Islanders	71	3	4	7	70
Brock Nelson	30	NY Islanders	72	37	22	59	33
Reece Newkirk	21	Worcester (ECHL)	36	11	17	28	33
Jean-Gabriel Pageau	29	NY Islanders	77	18	21	39	30
Kyle Palmieri	31	NY Islanders	69	15	18	33	57
Richard Panik	31	Bri/Chi (AHL)	39	9	10	19	43
Zach Parise	38	NY Islanders	82	15	20	35	28
Jacob Pivonka	22	Notre Dame (Big10)	25	1	7	8	4
Aatu Raty	19	Jukurit (Fin)	41	13	27	40	32
Oliver Wahlstrom	22	NY Islanders	73	13	11	24	74

RYAN
PULOCK

RATY: PHOTO BY OULUN KARPAT; PULOCK: THOMAS SALUS-USA TODAY SPORTS

STATS | 2021-22

2021-22 REGULAR SEASON — 2022 PLAYOFFS

PLAYER	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	P/GP	EVG	EVP	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	OTG	GWG	S	S%	TOI/GP	FOW%	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM
Brock Nelson	72	37	22	59	-5	33	0.82	26	45	11	14	0	0	0	5	171	21.6	17:41	49.4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mathew Barzal	73	15	44	59	-15	18	0.81	14	39	1	20	0	0	0	1	161	9.3	18:01	46.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Noah Dobson	80	13	38	51	-3	18	0.64	10	29	3	22	0	0	1	4	190	6.8	21:28	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Anders Lee	76	28	18	46	-11	34	0.61	19	33	9	13	0	0	0	3	159	17.6	16:38	48.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Josh Bailey	74	14	30	44	-7	6	0.59	12	33	2	11	0	0	0	1	87	16.1	16:53	39.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jean-Gabriel Pageau	77	18	21	39	0	30	0.51	13	28	4	7	1	4	0	0	126	14.3	17:40	55.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Zach Parise	82	15	20	35	-2	28	0.43	11	26	2	7	2	2	0	4	138	10.9	15:17	37.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Anthony Beauvillier	75	12	22	34	-10	12	0.45	7	23	5	11	0	0	0	1	154	7.8	16:50	40.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kyle Palmieri	69	15	18	33	0	57	0.48	13	27	2	6	0	0	0	6	156	9.6	15:37	29.4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Adam Pelech	78	3	25	28	20	42	0.36	3	26	0	0	0	2	0	0	104	2.9	21:17	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Oliver Wahlstrom	73	13	11	24	-6	74	0.33	8	16	5	8	0	0	0	2	157	8.3	12:04	42.9	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ryan Pulock	56	5	16	21	0	2	0.38	3	14	2	6	0	1	0	0	122	4.1	21:08	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kieffer Bellows	45	6	13	19	-1	19	0.42	6	15	0	4	0	0	0	2	79	7.6	11:52	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Scott Mayfield	61	3	15	18	-5	55	0.30	3	17	0	0	0	1	0	2	80	3.8	19:46	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Casey Cizikas	74	10	6	16	-3	48	0.22	9	15	0	0	1	1	0	3	91	11.0	13:45	55.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cal Clutterbuck	59	6	9	15	-6	10	0.25	5	14	0	0	1	1	0	1	74	8.1	14:03	73.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Zdeno Chara	72	2	12	14	8	85	0.19	2	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	81	2.5	18:44	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sebastian Aho	36	2	10	12	-6	10	0.33	2	10	0	2	0	0	0	0	34	5.9	16:27	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Andy Greene	69	2	8	10	-13	10	0.14	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	3.9	17:25	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Matt Martin	71	3	4	7	-2	70	0.10	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	66	4.6	11:26	42.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ross Johnston	32	2	5	7	-3	44	0.22	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	22.2	10:16	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Austin Czarnik	11	2	3	5	5	0	0.45	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	22.2	10:57	39.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Robin Salo	21	1	4	5	-6	4	0.24	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	24	4.2	16:41	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Otto Koivula	8	0	2	2	-2	0	0.25	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0.0	10:45	42.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Andy Andreoff	6	1	0	1	-1	0	0.17	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	16.7	9:59	52.9	--	--	--	--	--	--
Grant Hutton	16	1	0	1	-1	4	0.06	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	4.6	14:11	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Richard Panik	4	0	1	1	-2	0	0.25	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0.0	14:55	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Leo Komarov	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	10:50	100.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Thomas Hickey	2	0	0	0	-3	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	19:29	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Paul LaDue	1	0	0	0	-2	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	12:47	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Michael Dal Colle	1	0	0	0	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	14:34	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

2021-22 REGULAR SEASON — 2022 PLAYOFFS

PLAYER	GP	GS	W	L	OT	SA	SVS	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO	G	A	P	PIM	GP	GS	W	L	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO
Ilya Sorokin	52	52	26	18	8	1,643	1,520	123	.925	2.4	3072:17	7	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Semyon Varlamov	31	29	10	17	2	978	891	87	.911	2.91	1792:17	2	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cory Schneider	1	1	1	0	0	30	27	3	.900	3	60:00	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Thu, Oct 13	vs Florida	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 15	vs Anaheim	7:30 PM
Tue, Oct 18	vs San Jose	7:30 PM
Thu, Oct 20	vs New Jersey	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 22	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 23	@ Florida	5:00 PM
Wed, Oct 26	vs NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Fri, Oct 28	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 29	vs Colorado	7:30 PM
Tue, Nov 1	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 3	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 5	@ Detroit	1:00 PM
Mon, Nov 7	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 8	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 10	vs Arizona	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 12	vs Columbus	7:30 PM
Mon, Nov 14	@ Ottawa	5:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Mon, Nov 21	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Wed, Nov 23	vs Edmonton	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 25	@ Columbus	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 26	vs Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Tue, Nov 29	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 2	vs Nashville	7:30 PM
Sun, Dec 4	vs Chicago	7:30 PM
Tue, Dec 6	vs St. Louis	7:30 PM
Fri, Dec 9	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 10	vs Carolina	7:30 PM
Tue, Dec 13	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 16	@ Arizona	9:30 PM
Sat, Dec 17	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Mon, Dec 19	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Thu, Dec 22	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 23	vs Florida	7:30 PM
Tue, Dec 27	vs Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
Thu, Dec 29	vs Columbus	7:30 PM
Sun, Jan 1	@ Seattle	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 3	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 5	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Fri, Jan 6	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Tue, Jan 10	vs Dallas	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 12	vs Minnesota	7:30 PM
Sat, Jan 14	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 16	vs Washington	7:30 PM
Wed, Jan 18	vs Boston	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 19	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	vs Carolina	7:30 PM
Mon, Jan 23	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Wed, Jan 25	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 27	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 28	vs Vegas	7:30 PM
Mon, Feb 6	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 7	vs Seattle	7:30 PM
Thu, Feb 9	vs Vancouver	7:30 PM
Sat, Feb 11	@ Montreal	12:30 PM
Tue, Feb 14	vs Ottawa	7:30 PM
Fri, Feb 17	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	@ Boston	5:00 PM
Mon, Feb 20	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Wed, Feb 22	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 24	vs Los Angeles	7:30 PM
Sun, Feb 26	@ Winnipeg	3:00 PM
Tue, Feb 28	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 4	vs Detroit	12:30 PM
Tue, Mar 7	vs Buffalo	7:30 PM
Thu, Mar 9	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	vs Washington	7:30 PM
Tue, Mar 14	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Wed, Mar 15	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 18	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Tue, Mar 21	vs Toronto	7:30 PM
Fri, Mar 24	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	vs Buffalo	5:30 PM
Mon, Mar 27	vs New Jersey	7:30 PM
Wed, Mar 29	@ Washington	7:30 PM
Sat, Apr 1	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 2	@ Carolina	6:00 PM
Thu, Apr 6	vs Tampa Bay	7:30 PM
Sat, Apr 8	vs Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Mon, Apr 10	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Wed, Apr 12	vs Montreal	7:00 PM

ILYA
SOROKIN

BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS

NEW YORK RANGERS

THN PREDICTION | 2ND IN METROPOLITAN

IGOR SHESTERKIN

BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD
52-24-6 (.671)

OVERTIME
4-3

SHOOTOUT
4-3

OVERALL
8th

OFFENSE
3.05 GPG (17th)

DEFENSE
2.49 GAA (2nd)

POWER PLAY
25.2% (4th)

PENALTY KILL
82.3% (7th)

CORSI FOR/60
49.33 (31st)

CORSI AGAINST/60
55.55 (17th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
M. Zibanejad (19:38)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
A. Fox (23:54)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Gerard Gallant

GM
Chris Drury

ARENA
Madison Square Garden

CAPACITY
18,006

AHL AFFILIATE
Hartford Wolf Pack

ECHL AFFILIATE
Jacksonville Icemen

PLAYOFF RECORD
10-13 (since 2018)

BY STEVE ZIPAY

AFTER A SURPRISING, gritty march to the Eastern Conference final, the Rangers couldn't simply run it back for the 2022-23 season. Why not? Well, prior to last season, the Rangers had enough cap space to sign Mika Zibanejad to an eight-year extension to join Chris Kreider and Artemi Panarin with long-term deals. They nurtured some top prospects and landed Andrew Copp, Frank Vatrano and Tyler Motte at the trade deadline. Along with Vezina Trophy winner Igor Shesterkin, they lifted the Blueshirts into second place in the Metropolitan Division and helped fuel a deep playoff journey.

Entering this summer, however, GM Chris Drury was in a much different position. Six core players – Zibanejad, Kreider, Panarin, Shesterkin, Adam Fox and Jacob Trouba – were locked in for more than 60 percent of the $82.5-million salary cap. And they'll have to pony up more for 2023 RFAs Alexis Lafreniere, Filip Chytil and K'Andre Miller. So, UFA centers Ryan Strome and Copp and other forwards were unaffordable. Vincent Trocheck was lured in as the No. 2 center with a seven-year deal, and veteran goaltender Jaroslav Halak was signed to give Shesterkin some nights off. In the end, the Rangers will hunt for a division title and be a very tough playoff out.

>OFFENSE

With Trocheck replacing Strome, the top six should be solid and a little tougher, especially if he clicks with Panarin as Strome did. The Kreider-Zibanejad connection rose to the first-line challenge, and it's expected that 2020 No. 1 overall pick Lafreniere, a lefty, will get a long look on their right side. Kaapo Kakko seems like the logical choice on the right side of Trocheck. But can 23-year-old third-line center Chytil carry over his playoff surge into this season with different partners on the 'Kid Line,' ranging from Sammy Blais to Barclay Goodrow and perhaps Vitali Kravtsov back from loan to the KHL?

The Rangers need to win more faceoffs, so Goodrow could center a fourth line with wingers from Dryden Hunt to Julien Gauthier to Ryan Reaves as coach Gerard Gallant mixes and matches from the top down.

>DEFENSE

Barring injuries, Gallant will have 2021 Norris Trophy winner Fox, who signed a seven-year, $66.5-million extension last November and produced 11 goals and 74 points in 78 games in 2021-22, plus the rugged Trouba and sophomore Braden Schneider, who played 43 games after a call-up, manning the right side. With the improving Miller and feisty shot-blocker Ryan Lindgren on the left side, the blueline will be formidable again.

Patrik Nemeth was dumped to Arizona, so lefty Zac Jones, 21, who had nine goals and 35 points in 52 games with AHL Hartford, is the clubhouse leader to land the open spot on the third pair. Drury could add a veteran for experience at the trade deadline to join depth options Libor Hajek, a 6-foot-3 shutdown D-man, Matthew Robertson and Nils Lundkvist.

ARTEMI **PANARIN**

JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

>GOALTENDING

Smooth, ultra-quick and confident, the workhorse Shesterkin was dominant and won the Vezina with a 2.07 goals-against average and .935 save percentage. The MVP on Broadway, who also can trigger breakouts the other way, figures to play at least 60 games. Halak, 37, replaces Alexandar Georgiev, an RFA who was traded to Colorado for three draft picks. Louis Domingue, another free-agent signing, is set as the No. 3 but could move up if Halak falters.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

When their 5-on-5 play fizzled, the power play – which ranked fourth in the league at 25.2 percent – rescued the Blueshirts on many nights. Kreider produced 26 power-play goals – half of his career-high 52 overall tallies – mostly from net-front deflections and rebounds or passes from Panarin or Zibanejad. Trocheck should also put up points on the man-advantage unit, where he'll replace Strome, who signed in Anaheim. The penalty kill, which ranked seventh in the league, struggled at times, but Shesterkin was there to shut the door. The Rangers could miss role players such as center Kevin Rooney and Motte, but it's hard to foresee the PK falling out of the top 10, because Gallant's system won't change.

>INTANGIBLES

It's about the stars and the kids. Will Trocheck gel with Panarin, who produced 22 goals and 96 points last season? Can two other big guns, Zibanejad (29 goals, 81 points) and Kreider match their numbers? Does Chytil's playoff growth mean he's ready to level up? Or will he and perhaps Kravtsov be used in a deadline deal for another center? And, no doubt, breakout years from Lafreniere and Kakko would really make the top six dangerous.

>ROOKIES

As a win-now team with 10 projected roster players aged 24 or younger, there's not much room for rookies beyond defenseman Jones and possibly 6-foot-3 left winger Will Cuylle. The captain of OHL Windsor had 43 goals and 80 points in 59 games last season. Left winger Brennan Othmann, the No. 16 pick in 2021, is farther away.

CUP ODDS

19/1

>X-FACTOR

The Rangers beat both Carolina and Pittsburgh in seven games in the first two rounds of the playoffs but ran out of gas against Tampa Bay in the Eastern Conference final, scoring just three total goals in Games 4, 5 and 6. Can that never-give-up chemistry be replicated? Will Gallant, who once coached Trocheck in Florida, coax the best out of him? Lafreniere, with 19 goals and 31 points in 79 games, certainly developed last year, but he needs to take the next step.

>THE BRASS

Don't expect any big changes. Drury was one of three finalists for the NHL's GM of the year. Gallant and his assistants guided the team to the East final in their first season behind the bench. Owner James Dolan would love a Stanley Cup in New York in the next few years before the window starts closing. H

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Chris Kreider	**1.** Mika Zibanejad	**1.** Kaapo Kakko
2. Artemi Panarin	**2.** Vincent Trocheck	**2.** Sammy Blais
3. Alexis Lafreniere	**3.** Filip Chytil	**3.** Vitali Kravtsov
4. Dryden Hunt	**4.** Barclay Goodrow	**4.** Julien Gauthier
5. Will Cuylle	**5.** Ryan Carpenter	**5.** Ryan Reaves

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Jacob Trouba	**6.** Zac Jones	**1.** Igor Shesterkin
2. Adam Fox	**7.** Nils Lundkvist	**2.** Jaroslav Halak
3. K'Andre Miller	**8.** Libor Hajek	**3.** Louis Domingue
4. Ryan Lindgren	**9.** Jarred Tinordi	✚ INJURED
5. Braden Schneider	**10.** Matthew Robertson	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Andrew Copp, C; Ryan Strome, C; Justin Braun, D; Alexandar Georgiev, G; Frank Vatrano, RW; Patrik Nemeth, D; Tyler Motte, LW; Kevin Rooney, C; Greg McKegg, C

BRENNAN
OTHMANN

FUTURE WATCH

WITH ALEXIS LAFRENIERE AND Kaapo Kakko already NHLers, we turn our attention to the next class, headlined by blueliners Braden Schneider and Zac Jones, both of whom have made their NHL debuts. Up front, Brennan Othmann brings skill and physicality, while Brett Berard hones his energetic game in college, where he led Providence in scoring as a sophomore. The big X-factor? Prodigal son Vitali Kravtsov, giving North America yet another try this fall.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Brennan Othmann, LW

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Flint (OHL)
Season spent in Switzerland elevated game further. Dedication to improving unparalleled.
Acquired 16th overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

2. Vitali Kravtsov, RW

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Chelyabinsk (KHL)
Promising prospect's relationship with team frayed. More trade chip than future Ranger.
Acquired 9th overall, 2018 **NHL** '22-23

3. Zac Jones, D

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Hartford (AHL)
Solid puckhandler and passer is improving defensively. Continues to climb depth chart.
Acquired 68th overall, 2019 **NHL** '22-23

4. Matthew Robertson, D

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Hartford (AHL)
Great skater, but WHL production hasn't translated to AHL. All-around game getting there.
Acquired 49th overall, 2019 **NHL** '23-24

5. Adam Sykora, LW

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Nitra (Svk.)
Puck hound is off the charts in intensity and effort. Youngest player from 2022 draft.
Acquired 63rd overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

6. Brett Berard, LW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Providence (HE)
Diminutive pivot plays with pace and passion. Point-per-game scorer in second NCAA season.
Acquired 134th overall, 2020 **NHL** '25-26

7. Will Cuylle, LW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Windsor (OHL)
Big winger sets and shoots quickly, hence 43-goal term. Captained Windsor after year in AHL.
Acquired 60th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

8. Dylan Garand, G

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Kamloops (WHL)
Great regular season followed by better playoffs. Won WHL and CHL top-goaltender honors.
Acquired 103rd overall, 2020 **NHL** '25-26

9. Evan Vierling, C

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Barrie (OHL)
Output stagnated following great sophomore season. Two-way pivot has grind-line potential.
Acquired 127th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

10. Ryder Korczak, C

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Moose Jaw (WHL)
He's the type of center coaches want on for any important draw. Starting to show more offense.
Acquired 75th overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Talyn Boyko	19	TC/Kel (WHL)	54	29	18	5	3.03	.908
Dylan Garand	20	Kamloops (WHL)	45	34	9	1	2.16	.925
Louis Domingue	30	WB/Scranton (AHL)	22	10	9	4	2.41	.924
Jaroslav Halak	37	Vancouver	17	4	7	2	2.94	.902
Olof Lindbom	22	Kristianstad (Swe2)	27	10	15	0	3.22	.900
Hugo Ollas	20	Merrimack (HE)	18	10	6	0	2.24	.920
Igor Shesterkin	26	NY Rangers	53	36	13	4	2.07	.935

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Ty Emberson	22	Hartford (AHL)	58	4	7	11	17
Adam Fox	24	NY Rangers	78	11	63	74	26
Libor Hajek	24	NY Rangers	17	0	1	1	8
Zac Jones	21	Hartford (AHL)	52	9	26	35	25
Hank Kempf	20	Cornell (ECAC)	32	0	8	8	6
Simon Kjellberg	22	RPI (ECAC)	43	8	19	27	16
Ryan Lindgren	24	NY Rangers	78	4	11	15	48
Nils Lundqvist	22	Hartford (AHL)	34	3	12	15	14
Victor Mancini	20	Neb.-Omaha (NCHC)	38	0	5	5	26
K'Andre Miller	22	NY Rangers	82	7	13	24	24
Matthew Robertson	21	Hartford (AHL)	65	1	10	11	36
Brandon Scanlin	23	Neb.-Omaha (NCHC)	38	6	25	31	31
Braden Schneider	21	NY Rangers	43	2	9	11	9
Hunter Skinner	21	Hartford (AHL)	49	4	9	13	34
Jarred Tinordi	20	Hartford (AHL)	32	1	4	5	56
Jacob Trouba	28	NY Rangers	81	11	28	39	88
Andy Welinski	29	Stockton (AHL)	39	3	16	19	12

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Leevi Aaltonen	21	KooKoo (Fin)	47	6	4	10	6
Maxim Barbashev	19	Moncton (QMJHL)	59	15	27	42	66
Brett Berard	20	Providence (HE)	36	18	20	38	37
Sammy Blais	26	NY Rangers	14	0	4	4	17
Jonny Brodzinski	29	Hartford (AHL)	36	18	21	39	34
Ryan Carpenter	31	Chi/Cgy	67	3	9	12	36
Jaroslav Chmelar	19	Jokerit (Fin)	39	9	9	18	26
Eric Ciccolini	21	Michigan (Big10)	4	0	0	0	8
Filip Chytil	23	NY Rangers	67	8	14	22	14
Will Cuylle	20	Windsor (OHL)	59	43	37	80	48
Adam Edstrom	21	Rogle (Swe)	43	7	2	9	6
Turner Elson	30	Grand Rapids (AHL)	73	21	24	45	30
Julien Gauthier	24	NY Rangers	49	3	4	7	8
Tim Gettinger	24	Hartford (AHL)	45	10	15	25	39
Barclay Goodrow	29	NY Rangers	79	13	20	33	69
Jayden Grubbe	19	Red Deer (WHL)	68	14	21	35	69
Karl Henriksson	21	Frolunda (Swe)	40	3	6	9	8
Riley Hughes	22	Northeastern (HE)	31	2	10	12	16
Dryden Hunt	26	NY Rangers	76	6	11	17	52
Kaapo Kakko	21	NY Rangers	43	7	11	18	10
Zakary Karpa	20	Harvard (ECAC)	33	6	6	12	6
Patrick Khodorenko	23	Hartford (AHL)	66	10	17	27	39
Ryder Korczak	20	Moose Jaw (WHL)	68	25	54	79	36
Vitali Kravtsov	22	Chelyabinsk (KHL)	19	6	7	13	0
Chris Kreider	31	NY Rangers	81	52	25	77	24
Noah Laba	19	Lincoln (USHL)	50	15	24	39	115
Brody Lamb	19	Green Bay (USHL)	62	19	22	41	26
Alexis Lafreniere	20	NY Rangers	79	19	12	31	37
Bryce McConnell-Barker	18	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	68	23	26	49	14
Brennan Othmann	19	Flint (OHL)	66	50	47	97	65
Lauri Pajuniemi	23	Hartford (AHL)	51	13	13	26	14
Artemi Panarin	30	NY Rangers	75	22	74	96	18
Ryan Reaves	35	NY Rangers	69	5	8	13	43
Matthew Rempe	20	Seattle (WHL)	56	17	6	23	93
Austin Rueschhoff	25	Hartford (AHL)	59	14	10	24	58
Gustav Rydahl	28	Farjestad (Swe)	44	15	15	30	53
C.J. Smith	27	Chicago (AHL)	60	24	34	58	18
Adam Sykora	18	Nitra (Svk)	46	10	7	17	6
Oliver Tarnstrom	20	Rogle (Swe Jr.)	31	17	17	34	4
Bobby Trivigno	23	UMass (HE)	37	20	29	49	28
Vincent Trocheck	29	NY Rangers	81	21	30	51	78
Kalle Vaisanen	19	TPS (Fin)	32	1	4	5	8
Mika Zibanejad	29	NY Rangers	81	29	52	81	12

OTHMANN: NATALIE SHAVER/OHL IMAGES

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																			2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**	**P/GP**	**EVG**	**EVP**	**PPG**	**PPP**	**SHG**	**SHP**	**OTG**	**GWG**	**S**	**S%**	**TOI/GP**	**FOW%**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**
Artemi Panarin	75	22	74	96	21	18	1.28	17	59	5	37	0	0	1	5	177	12.4	19:13	50.0	20	6	10	16	-5	8
Mika Zibanejad	81	29	52	81	30	12	1.00	13	48	15	28	1	5	0	3	219	13.2	19:38	52.3	20	10	14	24	0	4
Chris Kreider	81	52	25	77	19	24	0.95	23	39	26	35	3	3	0	11	258	20.2	18:44	48.9	20	10	6	16	-1	14
Adam Fox	78	11	63	74	18	26	0.95	10	39	0	33	1	2	1	2	158	7.0	23:54	--	20	5	18	23	0	2
Ryan Strome	74	21	33	54	15	69	0.73	15	39	5	14	1	1	0	5	161	13.0	18:19	44.4	19	2	7	9	0	10
Jacob Trouba	81	11	28	39	25	88	0.48	10	33	1	4	0	2	0	1	204	5.4	22:26	--	20	1	4	5	0	25
Barclay Goodrow	79	13	20	33	13	69	0.42	12	29	0	0	1	4	0	2	116	11.2	16:43	49.4	9	0	1	1	-1	6
Alexis Lafreniere	79	19	12	31	2	37	0.39	19	29	0	2	0	0	0	4	110	17.3	13:59	29.2	20	2	7	9	-3	11
Filip Chytil	67	8	14	22	-1	14	0.33	8	21	0	1	0	0	0	1	135	5.9	13:11	43.4	20	7	2	9	-2	4
K'Andre Miller	82	7	13	20	23	24	0.24	6	19	1	1	0	0	1	2	102	6.9	20:36	--	20	2	5	7	-5	10
Andrew Copp	16	8	10	18	13	8	1.13	7	16	0	1	1	1	1	2	32	25.0	17:01	49.6	20	6	8	14	-2	2
Kaapo Kakko	43	7	11	18	9	10	0.42	6	16	1	2	0	0	0	2	62	11.3	15:27	14.3	19	2	3	5	1	2
Dryden Hunt	76	6	11	17	-10	52	0.22	6	17	0	0	0	0	0	2	94	6.4	12:17	25.0	3	0	0	0	-2	0
Ryan Lindgren	78	4	11	15	18	48	0.19	4	15	0	0	0	0	0	1	73	5.5	20:06	--	17	2	3	5	8	10
Frank Vatrano	22	8	5	13	6	6	0.59	8	13	0	0	0	0	0	1	56	14.3	15:18	100.0	20	5	8	13	-1	13
Ryan Reaves	69	5	8	13	-13	43	0.19	5	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	11.4	10:39	50.0	18	0	0	0	-1	12
Kevin Rooney	61	6	6	12	-1	18	0.20	6	12	0	0	0	0	0	1	71	8.5	13:51	44.8	15	0	2	2	0	10
Braden Schneider	43	2	9	11	5	9	0.26	2	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	25	8.0	15:29	--	20	0	3	3	-3	6
Julien Gauthier	49	3	4	7	-9	8	0.14	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	69	4.4	10:18	33.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Patrik Nemeth	63	2	5	7	-9	28	0.11	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	52	3.9	16:38	--	5	0	0	0	-4	8
Greg McKegg	43	2	3	5	-11	6	0.12	2	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	25	8.0	10:52	45.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nils Lundkvist	25	1	3	4	4	0	0.16	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	32	3.1	13:56	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sammy Blais	14	0	4	4	3	17	0.29	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0.0	13:28	20.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Justin Braun	8	1	1	2	-1	0	0.25	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	16.7	15:52	--	19	0	1	1	0	6
Jonny Brodzinski	22	1	1	2	1	10	0.09	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	2.9	10:51	50.5	1	0	0	0	0	2
Zac Jones	12	0	2	2	-7	0	0.17	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0.0	15:10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jarred Tinordi	7	1	0	1	-5	7	0.14	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	20.0	12:51	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Libor Hajek	17	0	1	1	-10	8	0.06	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0.0	13:08	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Morgan Barron	13	0	1	1	-1	4	0.08	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.0	8:54	59.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tyler Motte	9	0	0	0	-1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0.0	12:33	71.4	15	2	0	2	-1	4
Tim Gettinger	8	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0	9:28	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Anthony Greco	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.0	9:44	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																2022 PLAYOFFS							
PLAYER	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**SA**	**SVS**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**
Igor Shesterkin	53	52	36	13	4	1,622	1,516	106	.935	2.07	3070:32	6	2	20	20	10	9	720	669	51	.929	2.59	1181:34	0	2
Alexandar Georgiev	33	28	15	10	2	832	747	85	.898	2.92	1746:06	2	0	2	0	0	1	31	29	2	.935	2.04	58:57	0	0
Keith Kinkaid	1	1	1	0	0	31	29	2	.935	2.00	60:00	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Adam Huska	1	1	0	1	0	39	32	7	.821	7.04	59:42	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Tue, Oct 11	vs Tampa Bay	7:30 PM
Thu, Oct 13	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Fri, Oct 14	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Mon, Oct 17	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 20	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 23	vs Columbus	5:00 PM
Tue, Oct 25	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Wed, Oct 26	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 29	@ Dallas	2:00 PM
Sun, Oct 30	@ Arizona	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 3	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 6	vs Detroit	5:00 PM
Tue, Nov 8	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 10	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 12	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sun, Nov 13	vs Arizona	6:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Tue, Nov 22	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Wed, Nov 23	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 26	vs Edmonton	1:00 PM
Mon, Nov 28	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 30	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 2	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 3	vs Chicago	7:30 PM
Mon, Dec 5	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 7	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 9	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Mon, Dec 12	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 15	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 17	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 18	@ Chicago	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 20	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 22	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 27	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 29	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 1	@ Florida	5:00 PM
Tue, Jan 3	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 5	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 7	@ New Jersey	1:00 PM
Tue, Jan 10	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 12	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 15	vs Montreal	5:00 PM
Mon, Jan 16	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 19	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 23	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Wed, Jan 25	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 27	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 6	vs Calgary	7:30 PM
Wed, Feb 8	vs Vancouver	8:00 PM
Fri, Feb 10	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 11	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Wed, Feb 15	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Fri, Feb 17	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	@ Calgary	10:00 PM
Mon, Feb 20	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 23	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Sat, Feb 25	@ Washington	3:00 PM
Sun, Feb 26	vs Los Angeles	5:00 PM
Wed, Mar 1	@ Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Thu, Mar 2	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 4	@ Boston	3:00 PM
Thu, Mar 9	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	@ Buffalo	5:00 PM
Sun, Mar 12	@ Pittsburgh	4:00 PM
Tue, Mar 14	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 16	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 18	vs Pittsburgh	8:00 PM
Sun, Mar 19	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 21	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 23	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	@ Florida	5:00 PM
Tue, Mar 28	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 30	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 31	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 2	@ Washington	1:00 PM
Wed, Apr 5	vs Tampa Bay	7:30 PM
Thu, Apr 6	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Apr 8	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Mon, Apr 10	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	vs Toronto	7:00 PM

ADAM FOX

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OTTAWA SENATORS

THN PREDICTION | 4TH IN ATLANTIC

BRADY TKACHUK

MARC DESROSIERS-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY KEN WARREN

OPTIMISM HAS returned in Ottawa. The Senators, who have missed the playoffs for five consecutive seasons – the longest post-season drought in franchise history – have signalled that the painful rebuild is over.

While the team's ownership structure was in limbo following the death of owner Eugene Melnyk in March, GM Pierre Dorion made countless off-season moves, including spending some serious money, to support the club's promising core of young players. At the draft, the Senators traded away their No. 7 overall pick to Chicago for scoring winger Alex DeBrincat. When free agency opened, Dorion signed Claude Giroux, the longtime captain in Philadelphia, who has roots in Ottawa. The team wasn't done there. After two years of injuries and inconsistencies, goalie Matt Murray was traded to Toronto. To replace him in net, 35-year-old Cam Talbot was acquired from Minnesota to battle for the starter role. The headlines continued when the club secured the future of 23-year-old center Josh Norris with an eight-year, $63.6-million contract.

>OFFENSE

In 2021-22, the Senators were led by the core of 22-year-old Brady Tkachuk (30 goals, 67 points), Norris (35 goals, 55 points in 66 games), 24-year-old Drake Batherson (17 goals, 44 points in 46 games) and 20-year-old Tim Stutzle (22 goals, 58 points). The additions of DeBrincat (41 goals, 78 points with Chicago) and Giroux (a combined 21 goals and 65 points with Philadelphia and Florida) should allow coach D.J. Smith the luxury of spreading out the talent over two potentially potent forward lines.

Beyond that group, the organization is hoping for an injection of depth scoring from the likes of Alex Formenton, rookie Shane Pinto (who only played five games last season due to shoulder injuries) and Mathieu Joseph, acquired from Tampa Bay at the trade deadline.

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD	33-42-7 (.445)
OVERTIME	4-5
SHOOTOUT	3-2
OVERALL	26th
OFFENSE	2.73 GPG (26th)
DEFENSE	3.22 GAA (22nd)
POWER PLAY	19.3% (20th)
PENALTY KILL	80.3% (13th)
CORSI FOR/60	53.83 (20th)
CORSI AGAINST/60	58.59 (25th)
ICE TIME LEAD (F)	C. Brown (20:03)
ICE TIME LEAD (D)	T. Chabot (26:12)

FAST FACTS

COACH	D.J. Smith
GM	Pierre Dorion
ARENA	Canadian Tire Centre
CAPACITY	19,153
AHL AFFILIATE	Belleville Senators
ECHL AFFILIATE	Atlanta Gladiators
PLAYOFF RECORD	0-0 (since 2018)

THOMAS
CHABOT

PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS

>DEFENSE

As busy as Dorion has been in giving the Senators more offensive punch, Ottawa entered free agency also hoping to upgrade its defense. Ideally, the team wanted a proven veteran who could play in the top four. The Senators ranked 22nd in goals against in 2021-22, and the organization wants to take some of the pressure off top defenseman Thomas Chabot. He ranked second in the NHL in ice time last season (26:12), and his defensive game suffers when he's fatigued.

The underrated Artem Zub has emerged as a solid two-way D-man, and the club has high hopes for incoming rookie Jake Sanderson, the No. 5 overall pick in 2020. After that, there are question marks about the makeup of a blueline that includes Travis Hamonic, Nick Holden, Erik Brannstrom, Nikita Zaitsev and possibly rookies Lassi Thomson and Jacob Bernard-Docker.

>GOALTENDING

Anton Forsberg took full advantage of Murray's struggles to take over the top job in the Ottawa net in 2021-22 with steady play (22-17-4, 2.82 goals-against average, .917 save percentage). After the Senators acquired Talbot – with goaltender Filip Gustavsson going the other way in the swap – the season will get underway with Forsberg and Talbot battling to see who earns more playing time. Next up on the depth chart is 21-year-old Mads Sogaard, a 6-foot-7 prospect ticketed to carry the load with AHL Belleville.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

Who gets the first-unit power-play time? The additions of DeBrincat and Giroux mean there are too many offensive threats for just one unit. Compared to where the Senators have been in the past – they ranked 20th in the NHL with the man advantage last season – it's a great problem for the coaching staff to figure out. On the PK side, the Sens need to fill the holes left by the departures of Nick Paul (Tampa Bay) at the deadline and Connor Brown (Washington) this summer. It was a decent group that ranked 13th in the NHL last season. Formenton's speed gives him PK-scoring potential, and the club has high hopes for Pinto.

>INTANGIBLES

Tkachuk has been the magnet drawing in the rest of the young core, but he has, at times, tried to take on too much, sometimes getting himself into penalty trouble. Giroux's leadership history should provide Tkachuk with more support, but Giroux has also been careful in suggesting it could take some time for the new-look, potentially offensively dangerous Sens to discover their identity.

>ROOKIES

The Senators spent last season hyping Sanderson as the best defenseman outside the NHL, and the time has finally arrived for him to prove himself in the big leagues. After an injury-plagued 2021-22 campaign at the University of North Dakota, Sanderson will be tested by facing the grind of a long season.

>X-FACTOR

Smith faces lofty expectations for the first time since taking over as coach. While many of the youngsters have developed under his charge, the challenge now is to create chemistry with incoming veterans. The Forsberg-Talbot tandem provides netminding security if one of the two struggles.

>THE BRASS

Melnyk's death left the team in the hands of his daughters, Olivia and Anna, with a board of trustees handling day-to-day operations. Speculation abounds about a potential sale of part or all of the franchise, perhaps tied to the construction of a downtown arena. H

CUP ODDS

36/1

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Brady Tkachuk	1. Josh Norris	1. Drake Batherson
2. Alex DeBrincat	2. Tim Stutzle	2. Claude Giroux
3. Alex Formenton	3. Shane Pinto	3. Mathieu Joseph
4. Parker Kelly	4. Dylan Gambrell	4. Austin Watson
5. Mark Kastelic	5. Ridly Greig	5. Egor Sokolov

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Thomas Chabot	6. Erik Brannstrom	1. Anton Forsberg
2. Artem Zub	7. Nikita Zaitsev	2. Cam Talbot
3. Jake Sanderson	8. Jacob Bernard-Docker	3. Mads Sogaard
4. Travis Hamonic	9. Lassi Thomson	✚ INJURED
5. Nick Holden	10. Jacob Larsson	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Connor Brown, RW; Matt Murray, G; Filip Gustavsson, G; Colin White, C; Chris Tierney, C; Adam Gaudette, RW; Tyler Ennis, LW

JAKE
SANDERSON

FUTURE WATCH

WHEN IT COMES TO the Senators' pipeline, the vibes have been spectacular for a while. With many of the forwards already in place, defenseman Jake Sanderson is the next high-end prospect to make the full-time leap, and his two-way game will help take pressure off Thomas Chabot. Jacob Bernard-Docker looks like a nice depth piece, too. Ottawa also took a D-man first in 2022, albeit not until the second round: Filip Nordberg, who plays with an edge.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Jake Sanderson, D

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** North Dakota (NCHC)
Well-rounded and all-situations, minute-munching potential. U.S. WJC captain, Olympian.
Acquired 5th overall, 2020 **NHL** '22-23

2. Shane Pinto, C

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Ottawa (NHL)
Sound defensively and built for top-six NHL duty. Missed all but five games last season.
Acquired 32nd overall, 2019 **NHL** '22-23

3. Ridly Greig, C

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Brandon (WHL)
Plays on (and often over) the edge and has scoring punch. A quick, talented wrecking ball.
Acquired 28th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

4. Jacob Bernard-Docker, D

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Belleville (AHL)
Settled in after so-so start to AHL season. Projects as quality second-pair shutdown defender.
Acquired 26th overall, 2018 **NHL** '23-24

5. Lassi Thomson, D

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Belleville (AHL)
Power-play weapon has blistering shot and great vision. Hard at work on defensive game.
Acquired 19th overall, 2019 **NHL** '23-24

6. Tyler Boucher, RW

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Ottawa (OHL)
Heavy on the body and forecheck with scoring touch to boot. Left NCAA for OHL mid-season.
Acquired 10th overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

7. Mads Sogaard, G

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Belleville (AHL)
Long and lean and covers plenty of daylight in blue paint. Got two-game NHL cameo.
Acquired 37th overall, 2019 **NHL** '24-25

8. Tyler Kleven, D

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** North Dakota (NCHC)
Attackers beware when he closes gap. Crushing checker has seen action at two WJCs for U.S.
Acquired 44th overall, 2020 **NHL** '25-26

9. Roby Jarventie, LW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Belleville (AHL)
Moves puck well at high speed. Keeps puck in close, and big frame makes his tough to defend.
Acquired 33rd overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

10. Zack Ostapchuk, LW

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Vancouver (WHL)
Production lagged early on before coming on strong. Had 23 points in 12 WHL playoff games.
Acquired 39th overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Antoine Bibeau	28	Allen (ECHL)	14	7	4	2	2.79	.923
Anton Forsberg	29	Ottawa	46	22	17	4	2.82	.917
Kevin Mandolese	22	Belleville (AHL)	17	9	5	0	3.12	.901
Leevi Merilainen	20	Kingston (OHL)	53	31	16	5	3.29	.891
Kevin Reidler	18	AIK (Swe Jr.)	11	7	4	0	3.13	.910
Mads Sogaard	21	Belleville (AHL)	35	19	14	1	2.86	.908
Cam Talbot	35	Minnesota	49	32	12	4	2.76	.911

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Olle Alsing	26	Nur-Sultan (KHL)	43	2	8	10	14
Jonathan Aspirot	23	Belleville (AHL)	47	5	13	18	52
Jacob Bernard-Docker	22	Belleville (AHL)	58	2	7	9	22
Erik Brannstrom	23	Ottawa	53	0	14	14	30
Thomas Chabot	25	Ottawa	59	7	31	38	26
Jorian Donovan	18	Hamilton (OHL)	64	3	19	22	29
Maxence Guenette	21	Belleville (AHL)	48	6	13	19	4
Tomas Hamara	19	Tappara (Fin Jr.)	32	6	29	25	16
Travis Hamonic	32	Van/Ott	43	4	6	10	14
Dillon Heatherington	27	Belleville (AHL)	45	2	11	13	22
Nick Holden	35	Ottawa	76	5	14	19	12
Tyler Kleven	20	North Dakota (NCHC)	38	7	3	10	93
Jacob Larsson	25	San Diego (AHL)	55	2	13	15	41
Filip Nordberg	18	Sodertalje (Swe Jr.)	42	6	21	27	88
Ben Roger	20	Kingston (OHL)	37	1	9	10	27
Chandler Romeo	19	Ham/Sar (OHL)	39	1	8	9	64
Kristians Rubins	24	Toronto (AHL)	58	1	10	11	24
Jake Sanderson	20	North Dakota (NCHC)	23	8	18	26	6
Lassi Thomson	22	Belleville (AHL)	44	10	16	26	54
Jonny Tychonick	22	Neb.-Omaha (NCHC)	24	2	6	8	19
Theo Wallberg	18	Skelleftea (Swe Jr.)	46	2	21	23	34
Nikita Zaitsev	30	Ottawa	62	2	9	11	28
Artem Zub	27	Ottawa	81	6	16	22	60

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Vitaly Abramov	24	Cheylabinsk (KHL)	41	8	9	17	26
Drake Batherson	24	Ottawa	46	17	27	44	32
Tyler Boucher	19	Ottawa (OHL)	24	7	7	14	22
Rourke Chartier	26	Belleville (AHL)	33	10	15	25	4
Angus Crookshank	22	Belleville (AHL)	19	5	11	16	6
Philippe Daoust	20	Saint John (QMJHL)	38	24	23	47	10
Alex DeBrincat	24	Chicago	82	41	37	78	19
Tyson Dyck	18	Cranbrook (BCHL)	54	34	41	75	58
Alex Formenton	23	Ottawa	79	18	14	32	59
Dylan Gambrell	26	Ottawa	63	3	4	7	12
Claude Giroux	34	Phi/Fla	75	21	44	65	26
Ridly Greig	20	Brandon (WHL)	39	26	37	63	92
Stephen Halliday	20	Dubuque (USHL)	62	35	60	95	52
Jayce Hawryluk	26	Skelleftea (Swe)	39	8	11	19	26
Roby Jarventie	20	Belleville (AHL)	70	11	22	33	42
Oliver Johansson	19	Timra (Swe Jr.)	33	19	22	41	12
Mathieu Joseph	25	TB/Ott	69	12	18	30	29
Mark Kastelic	23	Belleville (AHL)	64	14	14	28	87
Parker Kelly	23	Ottawa	41	7	5	12	60
Carson Latimer	19	PA/Edm	62	18	22	40	26
Viktor Lodin	23	Timra (Swe)	44	12	15	27	45
Luke Loheit	22	Minn.-Duluth (NCHC)	34	2	4	6	34
Jake Lucchini	27	Belleville (AHL)	72	20	30	51	14
Josh Norris	23	Ottawa	66	35	20	55	16
Jakov Novak	23	Northeastern (HE)	39	8	9	17	28
Cameron O'Neill	18	Mt. St. Charles (High-RI)	62	57	76	133	23
Zack Ostapchuk	19	Vancouver (WHL)	60	26	17	43	58
Oskar Pettersson	18	Rogle (Swe Jr.)	46	25	11	36	26
Shane Pinto	21	Ottawa	5	0	1	1	0
Cole Reinhardt	22	Belleville (AHL)	70	15	15	30	60
Scott Sabourin	31	Belleville (AHL)	40	5	12	17	75
Egor Sokolov	22	Belleville (AHL)	64	19	31	50	22
Tim Stutzle	20	Ottawa	79	22	36	58	37
Brady Tkachuk	23	Ottawa	79	30	37	67	117
Austin Watson	30	Ottawa	67	10	6	16	91

SANDERSON: PHOTO BY UND ATHLETICS

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																			2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	P/GP	EVG	EVP	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	OTG	GWG	S	S%	TOI/GP	FOW%	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM
Brady Tkachuk	79	30	37	67	-7	117	0.85	21	50	9	17	0	0	1	3	288	10.4	18:48	50.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tim Stützle	79	22	36	58	-27	37	0.73	14	31	7	26	1	1	1	4	176	12.5	18:25	38.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Josh Norris	66	35	20	55	-7	16	0.83	19	32	16	23	0	0	1	8	172	20.4	18:35	51.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Drake Batherson	46	17	27	44	4	32	0.96	14	30	3	14	0	0	1	3	110	15.5	18:56	41.9	--	--	--	--	--	--
Connor Brown	64	10	29	39	-15	10	0.61	9	26	0	9	1	4	0	0	121	8.3	20:03	36.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Thomas Chabot	59	7	31	38	-3	26	0.64	6	25	1	13	0	0	0	1	173	4.1	26:12	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alex Formenton	79	18	14	32	-13	59	0.41	13	26	0	0	5	6	0	1	162	11.1	15:27	40.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tyler Ennis	57	8	16	24	-6	16	0.42	7	20	1	4	0	0	0	1	89	9.0	12:33	69.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Artem Zub	81	6	16	22	1	60	0.27	6	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	92	6.5	21:02	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nick Holden	76	5	14	19	0	12	0.25	5	19	0	0	0	0	0	1	75	6.7	19:51	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nicholas Paul	59	11	7	18	-18	22	0.31	9	16	2	2	0	0	0	1	131	8.4	17:22	49.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Chris Tierney	70	6	12	18	-12	14	0.26	3	13	3	5	0	0	0	2	72	8.3	12:25	49.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Zach Sanford	62	9	8	17	-13	37	0.27	8	14	1	3	0	0	0	0	85	10.6	14:11	22.2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Austin Watson	67	10	6	16	-3	91	0.24	9	15	0	0	1	1	0	1	88	11.4	11:59	35.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Erik Brannstrom	53	0	14	14	-17	30	0.26	0	8	0	6	0	0	0	0	86	0.0	19:46	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Michael Del Zotto	26	3	10	13	-4	4	0.50	2	11	1	2	0	0	0	0	35	8.6	18:15	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Parker Kelly	41	7	5	12	-4	60	0.29	7	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	14.6	10:35	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mathieu Joseph	11	4	8	12	8	6	1.09	4	11	0	0	0	1	0	1	19	21.1	16:50	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Adam Gaudette	50	4	8	12	-6	13	0.24	3	11	1	1	0	0	0	1	84	4.8	11:27	44.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nikita Zaitsev	62	2	9	11	-7	28	0.18	2	9	0	0	0	2	0	0	65	3.1	18:59	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Colin White	24	3	7	10	-11	4	0.42	1	3	2	7	0	0	0	1	47	6.4	15:20	48.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dylan Gambrell	63	3	4	7	2	12	0.11	2	6	0	0	1	1	0	0	58	5.2	12:08	48.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Victor Mete	37	0	7	7	-19	4	0.19	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	27	0.0	14:37	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Josh Brown	46	0	6	6	-9	32	0.13	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	0.0	13:59	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lassi Thomson	16	0	5	5	-8	2	0.31	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	18	0.0	17:15	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mark Kastelic	16	2	2	4	-1	14	0.25	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	11	18.2	9:11	58.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Travis Hamonic	19	1	2	3	5	8	0.16	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	3.2	19:27	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Logan Shaw	17	1	2	3	-3	2	0.18	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	5.9	9:23	50.4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Scott Sabourin	7	0	2	2	-2	11	0.29	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.0	7:36	100.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Clark Bishop	9	0	1	1	-3	6	0.11	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0.0	8:21	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jacob Bernard-Docker	8	0	1	1	1	4	0.13	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.0	14:46	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Shane Pinto	5	0	1	1	0	2	0.20	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	0.0	12:57	32.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Andrew Agozzino	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	6:52	33.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dillon Heatherington	9	0	0	0	-1	7	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.0	12:20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Zach Senyshyn	2	0	0	0	-1	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	6:32	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Egor Sokolov	8	0	0	0	-6	4	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0.0	10:22	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cole Reinhardt	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	8:35	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Viktor Lodin	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0	10:25	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	GP	GS	W	L	OT	SA	SVS	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO	G	A	P	PIM	GP	GS	W	L	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO
Anton Forsberg	46	44	22	17	4	1,457	1,336	121	.917	2.82	2571:27	1	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Matt Murray	20	20	5	12	2	640	580	60	.906	3.05	1181:31	1	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Filip Gustavsson	18	16	5	12	1	574	512	62	.892	3.55	1047:33	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mads Sogaard	2	2	1	1	0	54	48	6	.889	3.07	117:18	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Thu, Oct 13	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 15	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 18	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 20	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	vs Arizona	4:00 PM
Mon, Oct 24	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 27	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 29	@ Florida	4:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 3	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 5	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 8	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 10	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 12	@ Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Mon, Nov 14	vs NY Islanders	5:00 PM
Wed, Nov 16	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	vs New Jersey	1:00 PM
Mon, Nov 21	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Wed, Nov 23	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 25	@ Anaheim	3:00 PM
Sun, Nov 27	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Wed, Nov 30	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 2	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 3	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 6	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 8	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Sat, Dec 10	@ Nashville	1:30 PM
Mon, Dec 12	vs Anaheim	7:30 PM
Wed, Dec 14	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 17	@ Detroit	1:00 PM
Sun, Dec 18	@ Minnesota	2:00 PM
Tue, Dec 20	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 22	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 23	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 27	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 29	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 31	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 1	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 3	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 7	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 9	vs Nashville	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 12	@ Arizona	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 14	@ Colorado	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 16	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Wed, Jan 18	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 20	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Wed, Jan 25	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 27	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 28	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 31	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 11	vs Edmonton	12:30 PM
Mon, Feb 13	vs Calgary	7:30 PM
Tue, Feb 14	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Fri, Feb 17	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 19	vs St. Louis	2:00 PM
Mon, Feb 20	@ Boston	1:00 PM
Fri, Feb 24	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 25	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 28	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 2	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 4	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 6	@ Chicago	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 9	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 12	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Tue, Mar 14	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 16	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 18	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 20	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 21	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 23	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 27	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 30	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 1	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 2	@ Columbus	6:00 PM
Tue, Apr 4	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 6	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 8	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Mon, Apr 10	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM

TIM STUTZLE

MARC DESROSIERS-USA TODAY SPORTS

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS

THN PREDICTION | **8TH** IN METROPOLITAN

IVAN PROVOROV

MARC DESROSIERS-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY WAYNE FISH

THERE HAVE BEEN some depressing times in the history of a proud Flyers franchise – from missing the playoffs on a last-second shot in the final game of the 1971-72 season to going five straight years out of the playoffs in the early 1990s to finishing last overall in the NHL standings in 2006-07. And just when you thought Philadelphia could never sink to those depths again, along came the 2021-22 disaster.

The Flyers not only finished last in the Metropolitan Division, they set a franchise record with a minus-84 goal differential and missed the playoffs for a second straight season. Surprisingly, GM Chuck Fletcher didn't do much to acquire new talent to start a turnaround. There was the trade for Carolina defenseman Tony DeAngelo and a pair of free-agent signings in defenseman Justin Braun and depth winger Nicolas Deslauriers, but no inclination to go after a headliner such as Johnny Gaudreau. Cancer survivor Oskar Lindblom had the final year of his contract bought out and wound up in San Jose. So it looks and sounds like another winter of discontent for the Flyers' fan base. Philadelphia offered a glimmer of hope by drafting power forward Cutter Gauthier with the No. 5 overall pick in 2022 draft, but that's about it.

>OFFENSE

New coach John Tortorella is hoping to get healthy seasons from Sean Couturier (back surgery), Ryan Ellis (pelvic injury), Kevin Hayes (abdominal surgery) and Joel Farabee (neck surgery). If that happens, the Flyers will easily improve on a popgun offense that was second-worst in the league last season (2.56 goals per game). It will also help if a few of the young guns – namely Morgan Frost, Owen Tippett and Noah Cates – step up and become regular contributors.

On the positive side, Travis Konecny bounced back from an inconsistent 2020-21 to lead the team in scor-

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD
25-46-11 (.372)

OVERTIME
4-7

SHOOTOUT
1-4

OVERALL
29th

OFFENSE
2.56 GPG (31st)

DEFENSE
3.59 GAA (27th)

POWER PLAY
12.6% (32nd)

PENALTY KILL
75.7% (26th)

CORSI FOR/60
53.03 (21st)

CORSI AGAINST/60
60.73 (31st)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
S. Couturier (20:24)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
I. Provorov (24:53)

FAST FACTS

COACH
John Tortorella

GM
Chuck Fletcher

ARENA
Wells Fargo Center

CAPACITY
19,543

AHL AFFILIATE
Lehigh Valley Phantoms

ECHL AFFILIATE
Reading Royals

PLAYOFF RECORD
9-10 (since 2018)

ing, while Travis Sanheim and Ivan Provorov paced the attack from the blueline. Tortorella's first order of business will be to get the special teams turned around. The horrific power play sputtered to an NHL-worst 12.6 percent. Until that mess is straightened out, the offense is trending down.

>DEFENSE

Fletcher wants the Flyers to spend a lot less time in the defensive zone. DeAngelo should help in that department. Likewise Ellis, if he can bounce back from the worst injury of his career. Just like the power play, the Flyers' penalty kill was a disaster (26th in the NHL at 75.7 percent). Getting Couturier and Hayes back at full strength will help there.

If Ellis can return and pair with Provorov, there's your No. 1 defense tandem. Up front, putting Cam Atkinson (a mere minus-2 on a team with that big red minus-84) alongside Couturier might be the Flyers' top-line defenders. Defense could be trending up.

JOEL **FARABEE**

PERRY NELSON-USA TODAY SPORTS

>GOALTENDING

The question here is depth. While Carter Hart enjoyed a bounce-back season, backup Martin Jones wasn't re-signed. There was a thought that Russian sensation Ivan Fedotov might challenge for the No. 2 job, but he's been detained over claims that he owes his native country some military service time. So it looks like Hart's backup will be 32-year-old free-agent signee Troy Grosenick, who's played a whopping four games in the NHL.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

The Flyers struggled in both departments last season partly because coaches Alain Vigneault, who was fired in December, and Mike Yeo could not find the right chemistry with the team's core players. Gone is Claude Giroux, who was a staple as a left-circle sniper on the power play. The Flyers need to get more traffic in front of the net (hello, James van Riemsdyk) and more frequent, accurate shots from the point out of blasters Sanheim and Rasmus Ristolainen. The Flyers' special teams have to be trending up simply because they can't get any worse.

>INTANGIBLES

It will be interesting to see who succeeds Giroux as captain. Atkinson is a logical choice, mainly because of his long relationship with Tortorella going back to their days together in Columbus. The Flyers did increase their grit factor by inking Deslauriers. Couturier, the 2020 Selke Trophy winner, is the sole survivor of the Giroux-Jakub Voracek-Wayne Simmonds leadership group. He's the guy who will set the tone.

>ROOKIES

Of all the prospects who received brief tryouts late last season, Cates was the most impressive. He seemed comfortable with the speed of the NHL right from the jump. If 2020 first-round pick Tyson Foerster can bounce back from shoulder surgery, he could provide power-forward numbers from the right side.

>X-FACTOR

Many believe the Flyers will get a jolt of energy from Tortorella, a Stanley Cup-winning coach known for holding players accountable. Tortorella said in his introductory press conference that he's realistic about expectations but wants his team to be "hard to play against."

>THE BRASS

If Fletcher isn't already feeling heat from team owner Comcast (the cable-TV giant), he will be if the Flyers start slowly out of the gate. Team governor Dave Scott has shown patience, but continued sagging attendance and low TV ratings might change his attitude.

CUP ODDS

75/1

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Joel Farabee ✚	1. Sean Couturier	1. Cam Atkinson
2. James van Riemsdyk	2. Kevin Hayes	2. Travis Konecny
3. Scott Laughton	3. Morgan Frost	3. Owen Tippett
4. Nic Deslauriers	4. Patrick Brown	4. Zack MacEwen
5. Max Willman	5. Noah Cates	5. Bobby Brink

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Ivan Provorov	6. Justin Braun	1. Carter Hart
2. Ryan Ellis ✚	7. Cam York	2. Troy Grosenick
3. Tony DeAngelo	8. Nick Seeler	3. Felix Sandstrom
4. Travis Sanheim	9. Kevin Connauton	✚ INJURED
5. Rasmus Ristolainen	10. Ronnie Attard	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Martin Jones, G; Oskar Lindblom, LW; Keith Yandle, D; Nate Thompson, C

CUTTER GAUTHIER

FUTURE WATCH

THE END OF A bad season allowed the Philadelphia Flyers to get looks at the likes of Cam York and Ronnie Attard on defense as well as Bobby Brink and Noah Cates up front. All of them will jockey for pro positions this season, as will other kids such as Tyson Foerster and Zayde Wisdom. In 2022, Philly made a big pick for the future in Cutter Gauthier, a skilled center with size who is headed to Boston College. Owen McLaughlin had a breakout season in the USHL.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Cutter Gauthier, LW

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** USA U18 (NTDP)
Toolbox allows him to go around or through opposition. Big winger bound for Boston College.
Acquired 5th overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

2. Cam York, D

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Lehigh Valley (AHL)
NHL audition primer for full-time role. Poise, playmaking and skating ability all there.
Acquired 14th overall, 2019 **NHL** '22-23

3. Tyson Foerster, RW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Barrie (OHL)
Spot in AHL set him up for success in OHL, but missed almost entire year with shoulder injury.
Acquired 23rd overall, 2020 **NHL** '23-24

4. Egor Zamula, D

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Lehigh Valley (AHL)
Has smarts and reach to be high-caliber D-man. Needs to bulk up to reach peak effectiveness.
Acquired Free agent, Sept. 2018 **NHL** '23-24

5. Wade Allison, RW

Age 24 **2021-22 Team** Lehigh Valley (AHL)
Power forward has been banged up throughout time in pro game. Only 29 games last season.
Acquired 52nd overall, 2016 **NHL** '23-24

6. Bobby Brink, RW

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Denver (NCHC)
Excellent NCAA campaign and ready to get feet wet in pro game. Described as "rink rat."
Acquired 34th overall, 2019 **NHL** '23-24

7. Samu Tuomaala, RW

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Jukurit (Fin.)
Sharpshooter can blast it and beat keepers from long range. Needs to add bulk.
Acquired 46th overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

8. Emil Andrae, D

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** HV71 (Swe.2)
Clever in defense to make up for lack of size. Key in HV71 earning promotion to top division.
Acquired 54th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

9. Noah Cates, LW

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Minn-Duluth (NCHC)
NCAA captain wore 'A' for U.S. Olympic squad. Production proved NHL readiness.
Acquired 137th overall, 2017 **NHL** '22-23

10. Devin Kaplan, RW

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** USA U18 (NTDP)
Towering winger a crafty playmaker with good hockey sense. Bound for Boston University.
Acquired 69th overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Samuel Ersson	22	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	5	0	3	1	2.96	.893
Ivan Fedotov	25	CSKA Moscow (KHL)	26	14	10	2	2.00	.919
Troy Grosenick	32	Providence (AHL)	30	16	6	6	2.00	.933
Carter Hart	24	Philadelphia	45	13	24	7	3.16	.905
Aleksei Kolosov	20	Minsk (KHL)	22	11	9	1	2.90	.906
Felix Sandstrom	25	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	44	16	18	6	2.89	.902
Matej Tomek	25	Brno (Cze)	28	14	11	0	2.61	.908

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Emil Andrae	20	HV71 (Swe2)	41	9	24	33	18
Ronnie Attard	23	W. Michigan (Big10)	39	13	23	36	24
Louie Belpedio	26	Laval (AHL)	69	11	19	30	92
Justin Braun	35	Phi/NYR	69	6	12	18	36
Kevin Connauton	32	Fla/Phi	39	1	2	3	4
Tony DeAngelo	26	Carolina	64	10	41	51	56
Ryan Ellis	31	Philadelphia	4	1	4	5	0
Adam Ginning	22	Farjestad (Swe)	51	1	4	5	42
Linus Hogberg	24	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	58	0	8	8	14
Hunter McDonald	20	Chicago (USHL)	21	1	3	4	28
Mason Millman	21	Reading (ECHL)	36	8	17	25	16
Ty Murchison	19	Arizona St. (NCAA)	35	4	3	7	76
Ivan Provorov	25	Philadelphia	79	9	22	31	34
Rasmus Ristolainen	27	Philadelphia	66	2	14	16	38
Jack St. Ivany	23	Boston Col. (HE)	35	4	20	24	6
Ethan Samson	19	Prince George (WHL)	68	15	28	43	46
Travis Sanheim	26	Philadelphia	80	7	24	31	34
Nick Seeler	29	Philadelphia	43	1	2	3	29
Valeri Vasiliev	28	Krasnoyarsk (Rus2)	12	1	4	5	6
Wyatte Wylie	22	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	65	5	13	18	24
Cam York	21	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	34	2	10	12	12
Egor Zamula	22	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	58	4	25	29	16
Brian Zanetti	19	Peterborough (OHL)	56	4	22	26	16
Cooper Zech	23	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	53	1	10	11	12

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Wade Allison	24	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	28	10	7	17	4
Cam Atkinson	33	Philadelphia	73	23	27	50	10
J-R Avon	19	Peterborough (OHL)	64	29	39	68	36
Bobby Brink	21	Denver (NCHC)	41	14	43	57	44
Bryce Brodzinski	22	Minnesota (NCHC)	39	12	14	26	10
Adam Brooks	26	Mtl/Veg/Wpg	25	2	4	6	2
Patrick Brown	30	Philadelphia	44	4	5	9	11
Alex Bump	18	Omaha (USHL)	27	11	6	17	32
Jackson Cates	25	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	37	2	8	10	2
Noah Cates	23	Minn.-Duluth (NCHC)	37	11	13	24	19
Sean Couturier	19	Philadelphia	29	6	11	17	14
Nicolas Deslauriers	31	Ana/Min	81	8	5	13	113
Elliot Desnoyers	20	Halifax (QMJHL)	61	42	46	88	35
Joel Farabee	22	Philadelphia	63	17	17	34	50
Tyson Foerster	20	Barrie (OHL)	13	6	5	11	6
Morgan Frost	23	Philadelphia	55	5	11	16	14
Cutter Gauthier	18	USA U18 (NTDP)	54	34	31	65	49
Alexis Gendron	18	Blain.-Bois. (QMJHL)	66	30	16	46	60
Gavin Hain	22	North Dakota (NCHC)	18	6	3	9	18
Kevin Hayes	30	Philadelphia	48	10	21	31	26
Hayden Hodgson	26	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	46	19	12	31	70
Devin Kaplan	18	USA U18 (NTDP)	53	13	25	38	59
David Kase	25	Praha (Cze)	43	4	19	23	16
Travis Konecny	25	Philadelphia	79	16	36	52	77
Tanner Laczynski	25	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	28	7	10	17	8
Scott Laughton	28	Philadelphia	67	11	19	30	35
Olle Lycksell	23	Vaxjo (Swe)	47	14	20	34	6
Zack MacEwen	26	Philadelphia	75	3	6	9	110
Cooper Marody	25	Bakersfield (AHL)	52	21	34	55	52
Owen McLaughlin	19	Sioux City (USHL)	62	28	44	72	16
Jay O'Brien	22	Boston Univ. (HE)	24	10	12	22	38
Isaac Ratcliffe	23	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	59	11	17	28	61
Linus Sandin	26	Lehigh Valley (AHL)	36	8	12	20	16
Santeri Sulku	18	Jokerit (Fin Jr.)	35	13	19	32	30
Owen Tippett	23	Fla/Phi	63	10	11	21	12
Samu Tuomaala	19	Sport/Jukurit (Fin)	21	1	2	3	8
James van Riemsdyk	33	Philadelphia	82	24	14	38	25
Mikhail Vorobyev	25	St. Petersburg (KHL)	41	6	13	19	20
Max Willman	27	Philadelphia	41	4	2	6	16
Zayde Wisdom	20	Kingston (OHL)	43	9	29	38	29

GAUTHIER: THOMAS LOVELOCK/OIS HANDOUT PHOTO VIA USA TODAY SPORTS

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																				2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	P/GP	EVG	EVP	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	OTG	GWG	S	S%	TOI/GP	FOW%	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM
Travis Konecny	79	16	36	52	-23	77	0.66	13	42	3	10	0	0	0	3	220	7.3	17:37	41.9						
Cam Atkinson	73	23	27	50	-2	10	0.68	18	42	2	5	3	3	1	6	215	10.7	18:15	29.4						
Claude Giroux	57	18	24	42	-12	20	0.74	15	30	3	12	0	0	0	0	154	11.7	19:14	60.9						
James van Riemsdyk	82	24	14	38	-33	25	0.46	15	29	9	9	0	0	0	4	186	12.9	16:07	41.7						
Joel Farabee	63	17	17	34	-11	50	0.54	15	30	1	3	1	1	0	1	119	14.3	17:35	28.7						
Kevin Hayes	48	10	21	31	-20	26	0.65	8	26	2	4	0	1	0	1	126	7.9	17:55	42.8						
Ivan Provorov	79	9	22	31	-20	34	0.39	8	22	1	7	0	2	1	1	170	5.3	24:53	--						
Travis Sanheim	80	7	24	31	9	34	0.39	7	31	0	0	0	0	1	1	123	5.7	22:58	--						
Scott Laughton	67	11	19	30	-9	35	0.45	9	27	0	1	2	2	1	1	110	10.0	16:25	51.0						
Oskar Lindblom	79	12	14	26	-11	22	0.33	12	25	0	1	0	0	0	1	127	9.5	13:48	36.4						
Keith Yandle	77	1	18	19	-47	14	0.25	0	8	1	11	0	0	0	0	105	1.0	13:59	--						
Sean Couturier	29	6	11	17	-6	14	0.59	4	11	2	5	0	1	0	2	79	7.6	20:24	55.6						
Derick Brassard	31	6	10	16	6	10	0.52	5	14	1	2	0	0	0	0	46	13.0	14:22	51.3						
Justin Braun	61	5	11	16	3	36	0.26	5	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	67	7.5	20:02	--						
Morgan Frost	55	5	11	16	-11	14	0.29	4	14	1	2	0	0	0	0	85	5.9	13:55	48.4						
Rasmus Ristolainen	66	2	14	16	-9	38	0.24	2	15	0	1	0	0	0	0	97	2.1	21:26	--						
Cam York	30	3	7	10	-14	6	0.33	2	6	1	4	0	0	0	0	33	9.1	19:05	--						
Noah Cates	16	5	4	9	4	4	0.56	4	8	1	1	0	0	0	1	23	21.7	13:15	0.0						
Patrick Brown	44	4	5	9	-16	11	0.20	4	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	7.8	12:26	58.5						
Zack MacEwen	75	3	6	9	-15	110	0.12	3	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	82	3.7	9:40	45.7						
Owen Tippett	21	4	3	7	-4	2	0.33	3	5	1	2	0	0	0	1	53	7.6	15:12	66.7						
Gerry Mayhew	25	6	0	6	-5	10	0.24	5	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	31	19.4	12:09	40.0						
Max Willman	41	4	2	6	-13	16	0.15	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	6.2	11:46	28.6						
Ryan Ellis	4	1	4	5	2	0	1.25	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	6	16.7	22:48	--						
Ronnie Attard	15	2	2	4	-2	8	0.27	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	12.5	16:36	--						
Isaac Ratcliffe	10	1	3	4	-1	10	0.40	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	14	7.1	10:45	0.0						
Bobby Brink	10	0	4	4	-5	0	0.40	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	18	0.0	15:27	75.0						
Nate Thompson	33	1	2	3	-15	31	0.09	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	4.4	11:58	55.8						
Kevin Connauton	26	1	2	3	-7	2	0.12	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	6.3	13:36	--						
Nick Seeler	43	1	2	3	-3	29	0.07	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	3.1	13:05	--						
Hayden Hodgson	6	1	2	3	-1	11	0.50	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10.0	13:12	50.0						
Linus Hogberg	5	0	2	2	0	2	0.40	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0	17:04	--						
Jackson Cates	11	1	0	1	-2	0	0.09	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	12.5	9:05	60.6						
Nicolas Aube-Kubel	7	0	1	1	-3	6	0.14	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.0	9:49	--						
Wade Allison	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	8:16	--						
Connor Bunnaman	15	0	0	0	-7	4	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0.0	10:01	53.3						
Tanner Laczynski	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	9:27	40.0						
Egor Zamula	10	0	0	0	-6	4	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.0	16:21	--						
Linus Sandin	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	6:59	--						

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																	2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	GP	GS	W	L	OT	SA	SVS	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO	G	A	P	PIM	GP	GS	W	L	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO
Carter Hart	45	44	13	24	7	1,441	1,304	137	.905	3.16	2603:04	1	0												
Martin Jones	35	33	12	18	3	1,141	1,027	114	.900	3.42	1997:08	0	0												
Felix Sandstrom	5	5	0	4	1	177	161	16	.910	3.23	297:15	0	0												

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Thu, Oct 13	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 15	vs Vancouver	4:00 PM
Tue, Oct 18	@ Tampa Bay	8:00 PM
Wed, Oct 19	@ Florida	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 22	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sun, Oct 23	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 27	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 29	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 2	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 5	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 8	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 10	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 12	vs Ottawa	1:00 PM
Sun, Nov 13	vs Dallas	1:00 PM
Tue, Nov 15	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 21	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 23	@ Washington	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 25	vs Pittsburgh	5:00 PM
Sat, Nov 26	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Tue, Nov 29	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 1	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 3	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 5	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 7	vs Washington	7:30 PM
Fri, Dec 9	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sun, Dec 11	@ Arizona	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 13	@ Colorado	10:00 PM
Thu, Dec 15	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 17	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 20	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 22	@ Toronto	2:00 PM
Fri, Dec 23	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 29	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sat, Dec 31	@ Los Angeles	4:00 PM
Mon, Jan 2	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 5	vs Arizona	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 8	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Wed, Jan 11	vs Washington	7:30 PM
Sat, Jan 14	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 16	@ Boston	1:00 PM
Tue, Jan 17	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 19	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 22	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 24	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 26	@ Minnesota	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 28	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 6	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 9	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 11	vs Nashville	12:30 PM
Sun, Feb 12	vs Seattle	1:00 PM
Thu, Feb 16	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Mon, Feb 20	@ Calgary	4:00 PM
Tue, Feb 21	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Fri, Feb 24	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 25	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 1	vs NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Sat, Mar 4	@ Buffalo	12:30 PM
Sun, Mar 5	vs Detroit	6:00 PM
Tue, Mar 7	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 9	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	@ Pittsburgh	3:30 PM
Tue, Mar 14	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 17	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 18	vs Carolina	5:00 PM
Tue, Mar 21	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 23	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	vs Detroit	1:00 PM
Tue, Mar 28	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 30	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 1	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 2	@ Pittsburgh	6:00 PM
Tue, Apr 4	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Apr 6	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Sat, Apr 8	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sun, Apr 9	vs Boston	6:00 PM
Tue, Apr 11	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	@ Chicago	8:30 PM

SEAN
COUTURIER

ERIC HARTLINE-USA TODAY SPORTS

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS

THN PREDICTION | 3RD IN METROPOLITAN

SIDNEY CROSBY

MARC DESROSIERS-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY SHELLY ANDERSON

PITTSBURGH, A PREMIER franchise for much of the past 30 years, had to choose between two paths this off-season. After four straight first-round losses in the playoffs, the Penguins could break up their longtime core and build around superstar center and face of the franchise Sidney Crosby. Or they could stay the course, making some changes but sticking with mostly the same group, including the three core veterans who have led the club to three Stanley Cups in the salary-cap era.

Well, let's just say, welcome back center Evgeni Malkin and defenseman Kris Letang, the team's other two keystone players with three rings apiece, as well as wingers Bryan Rust and Rickard Rakell. All were pending unrestricted free agents before being re-signed. Pittsburgh saw extenuating circumstances with some of those early playoff exits, including goaltending and injuries, and opted to keep much of the gang together to chase a 17th straight post-season berth – the longest active run among all major North American sports leagues. The expectation is that the core might be aging but is still capable of orchestrating a deep spring run or two before their championship window closes. Ten of the team's top 12 forwards and the top two goalies are back. The biggest adjustments were made on the blueline behind the top pairing of Letang and Brian Dumoulin.

>OFFENSE

Crosby and Malkin started last season on the sidelines due to off-season surgery, but Crosby rounded into his eye-popping form and tied for the club lead with 84 points in 69 games, and Malkin managed more than a point per game, albeit in a heavily abbreviated schedule, with 42 points in 41 games. Behind them, centers Jeff Carter and Teddy Blueger are back, not to mention highly prolific wingers Jake Guentzel, who scored 40 goals for the second time, and Rust, who has topped 20 goals in each of the

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD	46-25-11 (.628)
OVERTIME	6-4
SHOOTOUT	3-7
OVERALL	12th
OFFENSE	3.28 GPG (11th)
DEFENSE	2.71 GAA (5th)
POWER PLAY	20.2% (19th)
PENALTY KILL	84.4% (3rd)
CORSI FOR/60	58.16 (10th)
CORSI AGAINST/60	53.57 (9th)
ICE TIME LEAD (F)	J. Guentzel (20:06)
ICE TIME LEAD (D)	K. Letang (25:47)

FAST FACTS

COACH	Mike Sullivan
GM	Ron Hextall
ARENA	PPG Paints Arena
CAPACITY	18,387
AHL AFFILIATE	Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins
ECHL AFFILIATE	Wheeling Nailers
PLAYOFF RECORD	12-21 (since 2018)

past three seasons. Rust could slide to Malkin's line, given the chemistry Rakell showed with Guentzel and Crosby in limited time together after he was acquired late in the season from Anaheim. In addition, Letang, an elite two-way defenseman, had the most productive season of his 16-year career, with 68 points.

Versatile winger Evan Rodrigues, coming off a breakout season, was still a UFA as of mid-August. But Jason Zucker and Kasperi Kapanen could more than make up for that loss if Zucker can remain healthy and Kapanen can sniff his potential after two down seasons. Blueger is a fourth-liner capable of moving up to the third line, while winger Brock McGinn joins Carter in bringing some physical play. This could be the season Drew O'Connor sticks in the NHL, with competition from Radim Zohorna and newcomers Drake Caggiula, Ryan Poehling and Josh Archibald.

EVGENI **MALKIN**

JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

>DEFENSE

Letang and Dumoulin remains the top pairing, and their high-end chemistry – Letang is free to join the offense with the confidence that Dumoulin will provide the needed defensive support – has been obvious, although Dumoulin seemed tentative and slightly off for stretches last season.

While second- or third-pairing-caliber D-men Marcus Pettersson, Chad Ruhwedel and Mark Friedman return, and fourth-year pro P.O. Joseph is expected to make the permanent jump to the NHL, there have been several changes. Gone via trades are Mike Matheson, who seemed to grow into a top-pairing talent, and John Marino, who never matched his strong rookie season. They have been replaced by veteran Jeff Petry, Ty Smith and free-agent acquisition Jan Rutta. Smith is a younger version of Marino with a similar career path so far, while Petry and Rutta bring the added size Pittsburgh has sought, and they could displace a couple returning players.

>GOALTENDING

Tristan Jarry has been mostly stellar in the past three regular seasons, but he has yet to prove himself in the playoffs after being overwhelmed in 2021 and injured in 2022. Casey DeSmith, who was re-signed, has been a capable backup for a couple of seasons – except in the post-season because of injuries.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

The power play's personnel remains largely intact and loaded, although the Penguins were inexplicably inconsistent and below average overall. The penalty kill, meanwhile, finished third in the league but will see new faces.

>INTANGIBLES

As always, Crosby, the captain and heartbeat, demands a cohesive and compliant dressing room. With his 59th point this season, Crosby will move into the top 15 all-time in NHL scoring.

CUP ODDS

25/1

>ROOKIES

The prospect with the best shot of making any sort of impact is center Filip Hallander, who was drafted 58th overall in 2018 and played one NHL game last season.

>X-FACTOR

Age stands out, in a concerning way. When the Penguins won the Cup in 2009, they were a team of relative youngsters. Now Crosby, Malkin and Letang are in their mid-30s, Carter is 37 and six others projected as regulars or key reserves are north of 30.

>THE BRASS

Under the Fenway Sports Group, which bought the Penguins in late 2021, GM Ron Hextall and president of hockey operations Brian Burke need their choice to stay the course with the same core of players to be the right decision. By extension, so does coach Mike Sullivan. H

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Jake Guentzel	1. Sidney Crosby	1. Bryan Rust
2. Jason Zucker	2. Evgeni Malkin	2. Rickard Rakell
3. Brock McGinn	3. Jeff Carter	3. Kasperi Kapanen
4. Danton Heinen	4. Teddy Blueger	4. Ryan Poehling
5. Drew O'Connor	5. Drake Caggiula	5. Josh Archibald

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Kris Letang	6. Jan Rutta	1. Tristan Jarry
2. Brian Dumoulin	7. P.O. Joseph	2. Casey DeSmith
3. Jeff Petry	8. Chad Ruhwedel	3. Dustin Tokarski
4. Ty Smith	9. Mark Friedman	
5. Marcus Pettersson	10. Xavier Ouellet	

✚ INJURED
🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs John Marino, D; Mike Matheson, D; Evan Rodrigues, C; Brian Boyle, C

SAMUEL
POULIN

FUTURE WATCH

ONCE AGAIN, THE PENGUINS were minor players at the draft with just five selections, but at least they had a first-rounder. Defenseman Owen Pickering was highly coveted (all 32 teams interviewed him at the draft combine) thanks to his size, skating and potential. Elsewhere in the system, Samuel Poulin had his ups and downs in the AHL, while P.O. Joseph must push for a job on the Pens' blueline. OHLer Jordan Frasca, signed as a free agent, holds intrigue, too.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Samuel Poulin, C

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** W-B/Scranton (AHL)
Turbulent campaign, but he came into his own after move to center. Has "old-man strength."
Acquired 21st overall, 2019 **NHL** '23-24

2. Owen Pickering, D

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Swift Current (WHL)
Defender does everything well but lacks an elite attribute. Size comes at expense of skating.
Acquired 21st overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

3. P.O. Joseph, D

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** W-B/Scranton (AHL)
Had rave reviews from AHL bench boss for talent and dedication. Arrived in Kessel trade.
Acquired From Ari, June 2019 **NHL** '23-24

4. Joel Blomqvist, G

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Karpat (Fin.)
Great-skating netminder is collected in the crease. Puckhandling could use fine-tuning.
Acquired 52nd overall, 2020 **NHL** '25-26

5. Nathan Legare, RW

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** W-B/Scranton (AHL)
Hardnosed scorer doesn't care if he scores with will or skill. Captain during junior days.
Acquired 74th overall, 2019 **NHL** '23-24

6. Sergey Murashov, G

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Loko Yaroslavl Jr. (Rus.)
Great stats in junior. Goalies tend to incubate for six seasons after getting drafted at 18.
Acquired 118th overall, 2022 **NHL** '28-29

7. Valtteri Puustinen, RW

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** W-B/Scranton (AHL)
Lacked conditioning but started to come around well. Good shot from the outside.
Acquired 203rd overall, 2019 **NHL** '22-23

8. Lukas Svejkovsky, RW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Seattle (WHL)
Exploded offensively in WHL, with 28-point playoff. Sister Ava a star women's player.
Acquired 108th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

9. Filip Lindberg, G

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** W-B/Scranton (AHL)
Limited action as rookie pro but showed reliability as backup. Injury derailed season.
Acquired Free agent, July 2021 **NHL** '23-24

10. Kirill Tankov, LW

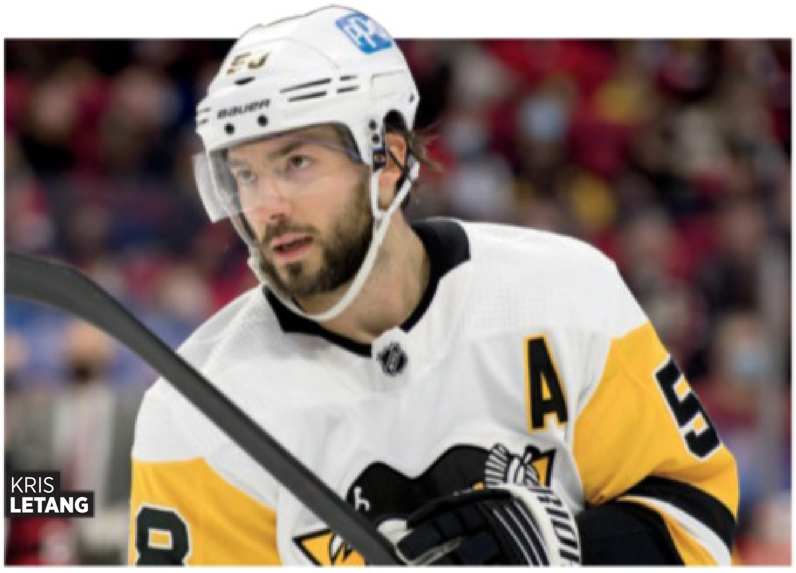
Age 20 **2021-22 Team** SKA-Neva (Rus.2)
Untested at the pro level but time is right to make the jump. Can play center or wing.
Acquired 218th overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Joel Blomqvist	20	Karpat (Fin)	20	6	3	5	1.32	.940
Casey DeSmith	31	Pittsburgh	26	11	6	5	2.79	.914
Taylor Gauthier	21	PG/Por (WHL)	42	31	9	4	2.34	.928
Tristan Jarry	27	Pittsburgh	58	34	18	6	2.42	.919
Filip Lindberg	23	WB/Scranton (AHL)	7	4	2	0	2.76	.915
Sergey Murashov	18	Loko Yaroslavl (Rus Jr.)	41	21	16	13	2.49	.927
Dustin Tokarski	33	Buffalo	29	10	12	5	3.27	.899

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Santeri Airola	22	Ilves (Fin)	19	0	3	3	6
Isaac Belliveau	19	Gatineau (QMJHL)	67	10	28	38	35
Nolan Collins	18	Sudbury (OHL)	65	4	14	18	56
Brian Dumoulin	31	Pittsburgh	76	3	15	18	24
Taylor Fedun	33	WB/Scranton (AHL)	44	5	11	16	18
Mark Friedman	26	Pittsburgh	26	1	4	5	23
P.O. Joseph	23	WB/Scranton (AHL)	61	10	23	33	44
Daniel Laatsch	20	Wisconsin (Big10)	28	1	2	3	4
Kris Letang	35	Pittsburgh	78	10	58	68	49
Josh Maniscalco	23	Wheeling (ECHL)	64	17	36	53	72
Joe Masonius	25	Adirondack (ECHL)	43	6	20	26	90
Ryan McCleary	19	Portland (WHL)	63	6	24	30	22
Xavier Ouellet	29	Laval (AHL)	61	8	33	41	47
Jeff Petry	34	Montreal	68	6	21	27	36
Marcus Pettersson	26	Pittsburgh	72	2	17	19	38
Clayton Phillips	23	Penn St. (Big10)	32	5	7	12	16
Owen Pickering	18	Swift Current (WHL)	62	9	24	33	39
Chad Ruhwedel	32	Pittsburgh	78	4	9	13	14
Jan Rutta	32	Tampa Bay	76	3	15	18	47
Ty Smith	22	New Jersey	66	5	15	20	22
Colin Swoyer	24	Michigan Tech (Big10)	36	5	18	23	22

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Corey Andonovski	23	Princeton (ECAC)	31	10	12	22	34
Raivis Ansons	20	B-C/SJ (QMJHL)	56	18	42	60	27
Josh Archibald	29	Edmonton	8	0	1	1	7
Kasper Bjorkqvist	25	WB/Scranton (AHL)	54	8	4	12	28
Teddy Blueger	28	Pittsburgh	65	9	19	28	10
Tristan Broz	20	Minnesota (NCHC)	36	6	5	11	10
Drake Caggiula	28	Buffalo	18	2	3	5	4
Jeff Carter	37	Pittsburgh	76	19	26	45	38
Judd Caulfield	21	N. Dakota (NCHC)	39	11	9	20	10
Sidney Crosby	35	Pittsburgh	69	31	53	84	32
Luke Devlin	18	St. Andrew's (High-ON)	44	19	28	47	44
Jordan Frasca	21	Kingston (OHL)	61	42	45	87	30
Ty Glover	22	W. Michigan (Big10)	39	8	13	21	48
Jonathan Gruden	22	WB/Scranton (AHL)	75	10	17	27	78
Jake Guentzel	27	Pittsburgh	76	40	44	84	44
Filip Hallander	22	WB/Scranton (AHL)	61	14	14	28	22
Danton Heinen	27	Pittsburgh	76	18	15	33	16
Kasperi Kapanen	26	Pittsburgh	79	11	21	32	16
Nathan Legare	21	WB/Scranton (AHL)	57	7	9	16	30
Evgeni Malkin	36	Pittsburgh	67	28	49	77	100
Brock McGinn	28	Pittsburgh	64	12	10	22	14
Alexander Nylander	24	Rock/WB	44	14	16	30	8
Drew O'Connor	24	WB/Scranton (AHL)	33	12	20	32	19
Zam Plante	18	Chicago (USHL)	31	10	11	21	2
Ryan Poehling	23	Montreal	57	9	8	17	6
Samuel Poulin	21	WB/Scranton (AHL)	72	16	21	37	51
Valtteri Puustinen	23	WB/Scranton (AHL)	73	20	22	42	14
Rickard Rakell	29	Ana/Pit	80	20	21	41	12
Bryan Rust	30	Pittsburgh	60	24	34	58	14
Lukas Svejkovsky	20	Seattle (WHL)	33	22	24	46	38
Kirill Tankov	20	SKA-Neva (Rus2)	38	10	11	21	10
Chase Yoder	20	Providence (HE)	38	5	6	11	14
Radim Zohorna	26	WB/Scranton (AHL)	39	12	9	21	10
Jason Zucker	30	Pittsburgh	41	8	9	17	15


KRIS
LETANG

POULIN: CHARLES LECLAIRE-USA TODAY SPORTS; LETANG: MARC DESROSIERS-USA TODAY SPORTS

STATS | 2021-22

PLAYER	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																			2022 PLAYOFFS					
	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	P/GP	EVG	EVP	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	OTG	GWG	S	S%	TOI/GP	FOW%	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM
Jake Guentzel	76	40	44	84	13	44	1.11	33	62	7	22	0	0	1	7	264	15.2	20:06	52.0	7	8	2	10	1	2
Sidney Crosby	69	31	53	84	19	32	1.22	23	54	8	30	0	0	1	9	208	14.9	19:58	52.4	6	2	8	10	2	2
Kris Letang	78	10	58	68	20	49	0.87	8	46	2	22	0	0	2	3	214	4.7	25:47	--	7	1	3	4	-3	0
Bryan Rust	60	24	34	58	7	14	0.97	15	37	9	21	0	0	0	1	180	13.3	18:46	16.7	7	2	6	8	1	4
Jeff Carter	76	19	26	45	-8	38	0.59	15	38	3	6	1	1	1	2	200	9.5	17:40	57.0	7	4	1	5	-6	6
Evan Rodrigues	82	19	24	43	3	14	0.52	12	35	7	8	0	0	0	2	243	7.8	15:50	47.4	7	3	2	5	-2	4
ESGeni Malkin	41	20	22	42	-10	24	1.02	11	22	9	20	0	0	1	5	129	15.5	18:20	43.6	7	3	3	6	2	6
Danton Heinen	76	18	15	33	6	16	0.43	15	29	3	4	0	0	0	1	138	13.0	12:43	0.0	7	3	0	3	-1	4
Kasperi Kapanen	79	11	21	32	2	16	0.41	11	27	0	5	0	0	0	2	129	8.5	14:32	41.7	7	0	3	3	4	2
Mike Matheson	74	11	20	31	12	33	0.42	11	29	0	2	0	0	0	5	140	7.9	18:48	--	7	1	5	6	-1	6
Teddy Blueger	65	9	19	28	12	10	0.43	8	26	0	0	1	2	0	0	93	9.7	15:01	53.1	7	0	1	1	0	2
John Marino	81	1	24	25	1	23	0.31	1	21	0	2	0	2	0	0	90	1.1	20:38	--	7	0	1	1	2	2
Brock McGinn	64	12	10	22	0	14	0.34	12	22	0	0	0	0	0	2	99	12.1	15:00	36.4	7	1	1	2	1	4
Brian Boyle	66	11	10	21	6	27	0.32	10	20	0	0	1	1	0	1	87	12.6	10:47	45.2	6	0	2	2	-1	0
Marcus Pettersson	72	2	17	19	8	38	0.26	2	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	83	2.4	15:39	--	7	0	2	2	3	2
Brian Dumoulin	76	3	15	18	24	24	0.24	3	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	91	3.3	21:49	--	1	0	0	0	0	0
Jason Zucker	41	8	9	17	-2	15	0.41	6	15	2	2	0	0	0	0	102	7.8	14:49	26.7	5	0	2	2	-3	2
Rickard Rakell	19	4	9	13	7	4	0.68	4	12	0	1	0	0	0	1	48	8.3	17:01	60.0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Chad Ruhwedel	78	4	9	13	2	14	0.17	4	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	82	4.9	15:20	--	7	0	0	0	2	0
Zach Aston-Reese	52	2	9	11	8	22	0.21	2	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	3.9	12:55	60.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dominik Simon	55	3	6	9	0	28	0.16	3	8	0	1	0	0	0	1	67	4.5	9:39	33.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Radim Zohorna	17	2	4	6	12	4	0.35	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	22.2	10:20	33.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Drew O'Connor	22	3	2	5	-1	4	0.23	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	7.5	10:17	34.6	2	0	0	0	-2	0
Mark Friedman	26	1	4	5	1	23	0.19	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	27	3.7	13:17	--	6	1	0	1	3	0
Sam Lafferty	10	0	2	2	0	16	0.20	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.0	8:43	35.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kasper Bjorkqvist	6	1	0	1	-1	2	0.17	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	12.5	8:22	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Juuso Riikola	5	0	1	1	2	2	0.20	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.0	13:23	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Valtteri Puustinen	1	0	1	1	2	0	1.00	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	10:14	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Anthony Angello	4	0	0	0	0	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	6:38	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pierre-Olivier Joseph	4	0	0	0	-2	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.0	18:14	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Filip Hallander	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	5:52	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

PLAYER	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																2022 PLAYOFFS								
	GP	GS	W	L	OT	SA	SVS	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO	G	A	P	PIM	GP	GS	W	L	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO
Tristan Jarry	58	56	34	18	6	1,711	1,573	138	.919	2.42	3415:11	4	2	1	1	0	1	30	26	4	.867	3.71	64:46	0	0
Casey DeSmith	26	24	11	6	5	769	703	66	.914	2.79	1418:09	3	0	1	1	0	0	51	48	3	.941	2.02	89:07	0	0
Louis Domingue	2	2	1	1	0	83	79	4	.952	2.02	118:45	0	0	6	5	3	3	187	168	19	.898	3.65	312:01	0	0

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Thu, Oct 13	vs Arizona	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 15	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 17	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 20	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 24	@ Edmonton	8:00 PM
Tue, Oct 25	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Fri, Oct 28	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 29	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 2	@ Buffalo	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 5	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 9	@ Washington	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 11	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 12	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 15	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 20	@ Chicago	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 23	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 25	@ Philadelphia	5:00 PM
Sat, Nov 26	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 29	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 1	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 3	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 6	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 9	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 10	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 12	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 15	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 18	@ Carolina	5:00 PM
Tue, Dec 20	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 22	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 27	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Wed, Dec 28	vs Detroit	7:30 PM
Fri, Dec 30	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 2	@ Boston	2:00 PM
Thu, Jan 5	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sun, Jan 8	@ Arizona	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 10	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 13	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 14	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 16	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Wed, Jan 18	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 20	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 22	@ New Jersey	2:00 PM
Tue, Jan 24	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 26	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 28	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 7	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 10	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 11	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Tue, Feb 14	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Fri, Feb 17	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	vs New Jersey	5:30 PM
Mon, Feb 20	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 23	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 25	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sun, Feb 26	vs Tampa Bay	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 28	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 2	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 4	@ Florida	6:00 PM
Tue, Mar 7	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 9	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	vs Philadelphia	3:30 PM
Sun, Mar 12	vs NY Rangers	4:00 PM
Tue, Mar 14	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 16	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 18	@ NY Rangers	8:00 PM
Mon, Mar 20	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 22	@ Colorado	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 23	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Sat, Mar 25	vs Washington	8:00 PM
Tue, Mar 28	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Thu, Mar 30	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 1	vs Boston	3:00 PM
Sun, Apr 2	vs Philadelphia	6:00 PM
Tue, Apr 4	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 6	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 8	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 11	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	@ Columbus	7:00 PM

TRISTAN JARRY

DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS

ST. LOUIS
BLUES

THN PREDICTION | 2ND IN CENTRAL

RYAN O'REILLY

DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY LOU KORAC

AFTER FOLLOWING UP their 2019 Stanley Cup triumph with back-to-back first round exits, St. Louis was a tough out last spring. They pushed the eventual Stanley Cup champs from Colorado in a hardfought six-game second-round series. The Blues believe their Cup window is still open and are hoping to continue to forge ahead despite the loss of David Perron to free agency after the right winger signed a two-year, $9.5-million contract with Detroit. The loss of Perron creates a void among top-six forward group after he scored 27 goals and 57 points in 67 games last season.

The Blues addressed some of their needs by re-signing D-man Nick Leddy to a four-year, $16-million pact. They also added veteran backup goalie Thomas Greiss on a one-year, $1.25-million deal after trading the rights to pending UFA Ville Husso to the Red Wings, and they added center Noel Acciari on a one-year, $1.25-million pact to solidify the bottom six.

>OFFENSE

Even with the departure of Perron, one of an NHL-leading nine 20-goal scorers on the Blues last season, Vladimir Tarasenko is expected to return with one year remaining on his deal following a career-high 82 points. Robert Thomas, coming off a breakout 77-point campaign, signed an eight-year extension for $65 million, the richest contract in Blues history. Pavel Buchnevich (30 goals, 76 points), Jordan Kyrou (27 goals, 75 points), Ryan O'Reilly (21 goals, 58 points), Brayden Schenn (24 goals, 58 points), Brandon Saad (24 goals, 49 points) and Ivan Barbashev (26 goals, 60 points) will anchor a well-balanced top nine.

Defenseman Justin Faulk's 47 points represented his best output since 2014-15 with Carolina, while Torey Krug (43 points) led all Blues D-men with 19 power-play points.

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD	49-22-11 (.665)
OVERTIME	4-8
SHOOTOUT	2-3
OVERALL	9th
OFFENSE	3.77 GPG (3rd)
DEFENSE	2.91 GAA (11th)
POWER PLAY	27.0% (2nd)
PENALTY KILL	84.1% (5th)
CORSI FOR/60	50.24 (28th)
CORSI AGAINST/60	56.46 (19th)
ICE TIME LEAD (F)	R. O'Reilly (19:05)
ICE TIME LEAD (D)	C. Parayko (23:34)

FAST FACTS

COACH	Craig Berube
GM	Doug Armstrong
ARENA	Enterprise Center
CAPACITY	18,096
AHL AFFILIATE	Springfield Thunderbirds
ECHL AFFILIATE	N/A
PLAYOFF RECORD	24-24 (since 2018)

VLADIMIR
TARASENKO

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

>DEFENSE

In bringing back Leddy, the Blues solidified their top four to go with Faulk, Krug and Colton Parayko. The Blues are a cap-ceiling team and made the decision to bring back Leddy out of necessity to strengthen their defense, which ultimately meant sacrificing Perron, who they couldn't squeeze in under the cap.

With a veteran, experienced top-four group in place, Marco Scandella, Robert Bortuzzo, Niko Mikkola and Scott Perunovich will round out the rest of the blueline, so there's plenty of experience on a unit that has transitioned from big, physical and punishing to more of a balance with puck-movers.

>GOALTENDING

With Husso moving on, Jordan Binnington is the clear-cut No. 1 heading into the season. The addition of Greiss, 36, adds a veteran backup after Charlie Lindgren, who was projected to move into Husso's spot, bolted as a UFA for a three-year, $3.3-million deal with Washington. The 29-year-old Binnington is expected to be ready for training camp after sustaining a lower-body injury against Colorado in the playoffs.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

The Blues were the only team in the league last season to rank in the top five on both the power play (second overall, 27.0 percent) and penalty kill (fifth overall, 84.1 percent). The PK unit will remain intact and should be a force once again, but they'll have someone new running the unit after former assistant coach Jim Montgomery was named coach in Boston. It could very well be veteran assistant Craig MacTavish, who was hired to replace Montgomery. The hole left by Perron, who led the Blues in power-play goals (11) and points (26), will certainly need to be filled.

>INTANGIBLES

O'Reilly enters his third season as captain, but he's also eligible to become an unrestricted free agent in July. There's a lot of leadership in St. Louis, though, with Schenn, Faulk, Parayko, Tarasenko, Krug, Leddy and others providing a chorus of strong voices in the dressing room. The Blues continue to trend toward a speed game, and with Kyrou winning the fastest-skater competition at last year's NHL All-Star Game, he and fellow speedster Thomas embody the team's pace of play potential.

>ROOKIES

Left winger Jake Neighbours, the No. 26 pick in the 2020 draft who played nine NHL games last season before returning to lead WHL Edmonton to a league title, has a legitimate shot at making the opening-night roster again and staying up for good. Center Zachary Bolduc, the No. 17 pick in 2021, scored 55 goals for QMJHL Quebec last season and is a wild card.

CUP ODDS

23/1

>X-FACTOR

Goaltending will play a major factor if the Blues are to challenge the top teams in the West. That means Binnington, who was superb in the playoffs with a 4-1 record, 1.72 goals-against average and .949 save percentage, will have to significantly improve on his regular-season effort (18-14-4, 3.13 GAA and .901 SP).

>THE BRASS

The Blues' ownership, led by Tom Stillman, has given GM Doug Armstrong the green light to spend to the cap ceiling to maximize results. Armstrong begins his 12th season as GM and has had one of the more successful tenures in that time frame. Craig Berube, a players' coach who is respected in the dressing room, enters his third full season after guiding the franchise to its first Cup in 2019. From top to bottom, the Blues are blessed with experience and success. H

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Brandon Saad	**1.** Ryan O'Reilly	**1.** Vladimir Tarasenko
2. Pavel Buchnevich	**2.** Robert Thomas	**2.** Jordan Kyrou
3. Ivan Barbashev	**3.** Brayden Schenn	**3.** Alexey Toropchenko ✚
4. Klim Kostin	**4.** Noel Acciari	**4.** Matthew Highmore
5. Jake Neighbours	**5.** Logan Brown	**5.** Nathan Walker

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Colton Parayko	**6.** Marco Scandella	**1.** Jordan Binnington
2. Justin Faulk	**7.** Robert Bortuzzo	**2.** Thomas Greiss
3. Torey Krug	**8.** Niko Mikkola	**3.** Joel Hofer
4. Nick Leddy	**9.** Calle Rosen	✚ INJURED
5. Scott Perunovich	**10.** Steven Santini	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs David Perron, RW; Tyler Bozak, C; Ville Husso, G; Dakota Joshua, C; Charlie Lindgren, G; Mackenzie MacEachern, LW

SCOTT
PERUNOVICH

FUTURE WATCH

WRIST SURGERY LIMITED SCOTT Perunovich's rookie season, so the puck-mover still has a lot to show at the NHL level as he grows up on St. Louis' solid blueline. Many of the Blues' most exciting prospects are up front, led by CHLers Jake Neighbours and Zach Bolduc – both coming off impressive campaigns. There's also a lot of intrigue in 2022 first-rounder Jimmy Snuggerud, a Minnesota commit with tons of tools who grew with the U.S. NTDP.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Scott Perunovich, D

Age 24 **2021-22 Team** Springfield (AHL)
Bright future for sound, playmaking rearguard. 2019-20 Hobey Baker winner is on the cusp.
Acquired 45th overall, 2018 **NHL** '22-23

2. Jake Neighbours, LW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Edmonton (WHL)
Nine-game NHL tryout a sign of how high Blues are on his upside. Good WHL numbers.
Acquired 26th overall, 2020 **NHL** '22-23

3. Jimmy Snuggerud, RW

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** USA U18 (NTDP)
Broad skill set an asset for rangy winger. His skating has improved noticeably in recent years.
Acquired 23rd overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

4. Zach Bolduc, C

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Quebec (QMJHL)
Massive 55-goal, 99-point output showcased scoring strength. St. Louis loves his game.
Acquired 17th overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

5. Joel Hofer, G

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Springfield (AHL)
Big netminder's WJC performance moved him up. Developing faster than expected.
Acquired 107th overall, 2018 **NHL** '24-25

6. Tanner Dickinson, C

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)
Slight playmaker's improvement since draft day has been impressive. Still, he could use bulk.
Acquired 119th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

7. Alexey Toropchenko, RW

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Springfield (AHL)
He'll get to greasy areas and come out with puck. Didn't miss a beat moving to 'A' from KHL.
Acquired 113th overall, 2017 **NHL** '22-23

8. Aleksanteri Kaskimaki, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** HIFK Jr. (Fin.)
Foundation is built on strong defensive play and faceoff ability. Needs to bring it every game.
Acquired 73rd overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

9. Nikita Alexandrov, C

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Springfield (AHL)
Can pick a corner with the best. Not prettiest skater but deceptively quick once he's moving.
Acquired 62nd overall, 2019 **NHL** '23-24

10. Dylan Peterson, C

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Boston University (HE)
Big pivot loves to block goalie's vision and clean up rebounds. Breakout NCAA season next?
Acquired 86th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Jordan Binnington	29	St. Louis	37	18	14	4	3.13	.901
Will Cranley	20	Ottawa (OHL)	41	13	22	3	3.81	.873
Colten Ellis	21	Worcester (ECHL)	34	15	13	5	3.21	.905
Thomas Greiss	36	Detroit	31	10	15	1	3.66	.891
Joel Hofer	22	Springfield (AHL)	39	18	14	8	2.96	.905
Vadim Zherenko	21	Ilves (Fin)	30	18	8	11	2.67	.902

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Noah Beck	21	Clarkson (ECAC)	37	5	17	22	24
Robert Bortuzzo	33	St. Louis	73	1	5	6	36
Michael Buchinger	18	Guelph (OHL)	63	5	39	44	47
Justin Faulk	30	St. Louis	76	16	31	47	43
Tyson Galloway	18	Calgary (WHL)	66	5	18	23	50
Marc-Andre Gaudet	18	Acadie-Bath. (QMJHL)	68	13	25	38	34
Matt Kessel	22	UMass (HE)	37	6	11	17	22
Torey Krug	31	St. Louis	64	9	34	43	48
Nick Leddy	31	Det/StL	75	3	21	24	22
Arseni Koromyslov	18	SKA-1946 (Rus Jr.)	42	4	15	19	36
Leo Loof	20	Ilves (Fin)	48	4	6	10	30
Brady Lyle	23	Prov/Spr (AHL)	63	5	11	16	18
Niko Mikkola	26	St. Louis	54	3	10	13	55
Colton Parayko	29	St. Louis	80	6	29	35	18
Scott Perunovich	24	St. Louis	19	0	6	6	8
Calle Rosen	28	Springfield (AHL)	40	4	24	28	14
Steven Santini	27	Springfield (AHL)	66	2	16	18	24
Marco Scandella	22	St. Louis	70	3	11	14	18
Tyler Tucker	22	Springfield (AHL)	72	3	15	18	114
Luke Witkowski	22	GR/Spr (AHL)	60	5	6	11	8

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Noel Acciari	30	Florida	20	3	5	8	11
Nikita Alexandrov	22	Springfield (AHL)	67	12	18	30	26
Anthony Angello	26	WB/Scranton (AHL)	44	7	12	19	27
Ivan Barbashev	26	St. Louis	81	26	34	60	40
Will Bitten	24	Springfield (AHL)	45	10	15	25	11
Zachary Bolduc	19	Quebec (QMJHL)	65	55	44	99	36
Logan Brown	24	St. Louis	39	4	7	11	8
Pavel Buchnevich	27	St. Louis	73	30	46	76	34
Tanner Dickinson	20	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	35	18	29	47	8
Martin Frk	28	Ontario (AHL)	58	40	33	73	73
Matthew Highmore	25	Vancouver	46	5	7	12	14
Aleksanteri Kaskimaki	18	HIFK (Fin Jr.)	31	19	21	40	20
Klim Kostin	23	St. Louis	40	4	5	9	23
Jordan Kyrou	24	St. Louis	74	27	48	75	20
Mathias Laferriere	22	Springfield (AHL)	56	3	6	9	6
Josh Leivo	29	Chicago (AHL)	54	22	24	46	38
Hugh McGing	24	Springfield (AHL)	67	14	20	34	36
Dylan McLaughlin	27	Rockford (AHL)	55	13	29	42	4
Jake Neighbours	20	Edmonton (WHL)	30	17	28	45	38
Ryan O'Reilly	31	St. Louis	78	21	37	58	12
Matthew Peca	29	Springfield (AHL)	68	23	27	60	16
Dylan Peterson	20	Boston Univ. (HE)	29	10	6	16	18
Simon Robertsson	19	Skelleftea (Swe)	48	5	1	6	20
Brandon Saad	29	St. Louis	78	24	25	49	10
Brayden Schenn	31	St. Louis	62	24	34	58	33
Landon Sim	18	London (OHL)	64	12	9	21	56
Jimmy Snuggerud	18	USA U18 (NTDP)	59	24	39	63	32
Vladimir Tarasenko	30	St. Louis	75	34	48	82	32
Robert Thomas	33	St. Louis	72	20	57	77	16
Alexey Toropchenko	23	Springfield (AHL)	42	10	10	20	24
Nathan Todd	26	Springfield (AHL)	49	10	13	23	21
Ivan Vorobyov	20	Khanty-Mansiysk (Rus2)	37	5	6	11	15
Nathan Walker	28	Springfield (AHL)	47	19	25	44	24
Keean Washkurak	21	Springfield (AHL)	64	13	10	23	50

COLTON
PARAYKO

PERUNOVICH: MATT BLEWETT-USA TODAY SPORTS; PARAYKO: SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																			2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**	**P/GP**	**EVG**	**EVP**	**PPG**	**PPP**	**SHG**	**SHP**	**OTG**	**GWG**	**S**	**S%**	**TOI/GP**	**FOW%**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**
Vladimir Tarasenko	75	34	48	82	7	32	1.09	29	59	5	22	0	1	0	9	230	14.8	16:55	36.4	12	6	3	9	-2	0
Robert Thomas	72	20	57	77	17	16	1.07	15	60	3	14	2	3	1	6	115	17.4	18:46	49.9	12	2	4	6	-6	10
Pavel Buchnevich	73	30	46	76	29	34	1.04	20	53	8	19	2	4	1	3	199	15.1	18:18	33.3	12	1	10	11	-3	6
Jordan Kyrou	74	27	48	75	10	20	1.01	22	55	5	19	0	1	0	4	188	14.4	16:35	40.0	12	7	2	9	-4	4
Ivan Barbashev	81	26	34	60	4	40	0.74	21	49	4	9	1	2	0	2	111	23.4	16:26	39.9	12	0	2	2	-6	4
Brayden Schenn	62	24	34	58	21	33	0.94	17	41	7	17	0	0	1	3	111	21.6	17:47	49.1	12	0	8	8	-1	14
Ryan O'Reilly	78	21	37	58	11	12	0.74	12	41	9	16	0	1	0	0	168	12.5	19:05	56.8	12	7	5	12	3	2
David Perron	67	27	30	57	8	48	0.85	16	31	11	26	0	0	0	2	177	15.3	16:59	25.0	12	9	4	13	0	10
Brandon Saad	78	24	25	49	11	10	0.63	15	33	8	13	1	3	0	1	158	15.2	16:16	42.1	12	2	3	5	1	4
Justin Faulk	76	16	31	47	41	43	0.62	15	40	1	7	0	0	1	6	167	9.6	23:12	--	12	1	7	8	-2	10
Torey Krug	64	9	34	43	23	48	0.67	5	23	3	19	1	1	0	1	119	7.6	20:34	--	3	0	3	3	1	0
Colton Parayko	80	6	29	35	16	18	0.44	6	34	0	1	0	0	0	2	135	4.4	23:34	--	12	2	3	5	5	6
Oskar Sundqvist	41	4	11	15	4	12	0.37	4	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	8.0	13:21	46.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Marco Scandella	70	3	11	14	17	18	0.20	3	12	0	0	0	2	0	0	76	4.0	18:08	--	4	0	0	0	-3	0
Niko Mikkola	54	3	10	13	-6	55	0.24	2	12	0	0	1	1	0	0	58	5.2	16:59	--	12	0	1	1	0	8
Nathan Walker	30	8	4	12	1	2	0.40	8	12	0	0	0	0	0	2	38	21.1	11:33	34.8	4	0	0	0	1	2
Tyler Bozak	50	3	9	12	-11	14	0.24	2	9	0	1	1	2	0	1	46	6.5	12:10	45.2	12	2	0	2	-1	0
Logan Brown	39	4	7	11	-3	8	0.28	4	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	34	11.8	10:11	39.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Klim Kostin	40	4	5	9	-3	23	0.23	4	9	0	0	0	0	0	1	31	12.9	9:01	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dakota Joshua	30	3	5	8	6	16	0.27	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	2	31	9.7	8:30	53.3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Nick Leddy	20	2	6	8	3	6	0.40	2	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	19	10.5	21:03	--	9	1	4	5	4	2
Calle Rosen	18	2	5	7	-2	4	0.39	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	11.1	14:20	--	9	0	0	0	-2	2
Jake Walman	32	3	3	6	3	6	0.19	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	6.3	11:59	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Robert Bortuzzo	73	1	5	6	-4	36	0.08	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	2.1	13:44	--	10	0	0	0	-1	6
Scott Perunovich	19	0	6	6	2	8	0.32	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	14	0.0	15:27	--	7	0	4	4	-4	0
James Neal	19	2	2	4	-1	0	0.21	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	1	31	6.5	11:58	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alexei Toropchenko	28	2	0	2	-9	15	0.07	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	4.7	10:43	33.3	12	0	2	2	2	2
Jake Neighbours	9	1	1	2	-2	2	0.22	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	12.5	9:19	33.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mackenzie MacEachern	14	0	2	2	-1	4	0.14	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0.0	7:58	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kyle Clifford	2	0	1	1	-1	0	0.50	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.0	11:13	100.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Matthew Peca	5	0	1	1	-1	0	0.20	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0	9:38	41.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Steven Santini	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	0	0	0	1	0

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**SA**	**SVS**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**
Ville Husso	40	38	25	7	6	1,236	1,136	100	.919	2.56	2341:14	2	0	7	6	2	5	228	203	25	.890	3.67	409:16	1	0
Jordan Binnington	37	37	18	14	4	1,135	1,023	112	.901	3.13	2144:57	2	14	6	6	4	1	176	167	9	.949	1.72	314:47	0	0
Charlie Lindgren	5	4	5	0	0	118	113	5	.958	1.22	246:25	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Joel Hofer	2	2	1	1	0	50	44	6	.880	3.07	117:09	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jon Gillies	1	1	0	0	1	39	36	3	.923	2.82	63:46	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Sat, Oct 15	vs Columbus	8:00 PM
Wed, Oct 19	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	@ Edmonton	4:00 PM
Mon, Oct 24	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Wed, Oct 26	vs Edmonton	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 27	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 29	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 31	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 3	vs NY Islanders	8:00 PM
Mon, Nov 7	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 8	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 10	vs San Jose	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 12	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Mon, Nov 14	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Wed, Nov 16	@ Chicago	7:30 PM
Thu, Nov 17	vs Washington	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	vs Anaheim	8:00 PM
Mon, Nov 21	vs Anaheim	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 23	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 25	@ Tampa Bay	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 26	@ Florida	6:00 PM
Mon, Nov 28	vs Dallas	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 1	vs Carolina	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 3	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 5	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 6	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Thu, Dec 8	vs Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sun, Dec 11	vs Colorado	2:00 PM
Mon, Dec 12	vs Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 15	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Fri, Dec 16	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Mon, Dec 19	@ Vancouver	10:30 PM
Tue, Dec 20	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 23	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 27	vs Toronto	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 29	vs Chicago	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 31	vs Minnesota	TBD
Tue, Jan 3	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 5	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 7	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 8	@ Minnesota	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 10	vs Calgary	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 12	vs Calgary	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 14	vs Tampa Bay	8:00 PM
Mon, Jan 16	vs Ottawa	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 19	vs Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	vs Chicago	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 24	vs Buffalo	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 26	@ Arizona	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 28	@ Colorado	3:00 PM
Mon, Jan 30	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 11	vs Arizona	8:00 PM
Tue, Feb 14	vs Florida	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 16	vs New Jersey	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	vs Colorado	2:00 PM
Sun, Feb 19	@ Ottawa	2:00 PM
Tue, Feb 21	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 23	vs Vancouver	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 25	vs Pittsburgh	8:00 PM
Tue, Feb 28	vs Seattle	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 2	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sat, Mar 4	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Tue, Mar 7	@ Arizona	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 9	vs San Jose	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 12	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 15	vs Minnesota	9:30 PM
Fri, Mar 17	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 19	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 21	vs Detroit	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 23	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Sat, Mar 25	@ Anaheim	10:30 PM
Sun, Mar 26	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Tue, Mar 28	vs Vancouver	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 30	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Sat, Apr 1	@ Nashville	1:00 PM
Sun, Apr 2	vs Boston	3:30 PM
Tue, Apr 4	vs Philadelphia	8:00 PM
Thu, Apr 6	vs NY Rangers	8:00 PM
Sat, Apr 8	@ Minnesota	3:00 PM
Wed, Apr 12	vs Dallas	7:30 PM
Thu, Apr 13	@ Dallas	8:30 PM

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SAN JOSE SHARKS

THN PREDICTION | 8TH IN PACIFIC

TOMAS HERTL

DEREK CAIN-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY CURTIS PASHELKA

IT WAS A SUMMER of change for the Sharks, who overhauled their front office and dismissed their coaching staff in the wake of missing the playoffs for a third straight year. Mike Grier was introduced as GM on July 5, less than a week after San Jose fired coach Bob Boughner along with assistants John Madden and John MacLean. In late July, San Jose named former Rangers coach David Quinn as the new bench boss. Shortly after the draft, the Sharks parted ways with Doug Wilson Jr. as their director of scouting. San Jose also hired Doug Weight as a hockey-operations advisor.

To create salary-cap flexibility, Grier traded veteran blueline linchpin Brent Burns to Carolina for two players and a draft pick. The new GM also put his stamp on the roster in other areas, hoping to make the team faster, deeper and tougher to play against than the 2021-22 team that went 32-37-13.

>OFFENSE

Timo Meier had a career-best 35 goals and 76 points in 2021-22 as he established himself as a legitimate top-six NHL forward. Burns was the Sharks' offensive leader on defense for years and had an impressive 54 points last season. Now it's up to Erik Karlsson, who had 35 points in 50 games, to lead the offense from the back end.

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD	32-37-13 (.470)
OVERTIME	7-10
SHOOTOUT	3-3
OVERALL	22nd
OFFENSE	2.57 GPG (30th)
DEFENSE	3.18 GAA (21st)
POWER PLAY	19.0% (22nd)
PENALTY KILL	85.2% (2nd)
CORSI FOR/60	51.52 (25th)
CORSI AGAINST/60	61.50 (32nd)
ICE TIME LEAD (F)	T. Hertl (19:56)
ICE TIME LEAD (D)	B. Burns (26:09)

FAST FACTS

COACH	David Quinn
GM	Mike Grier
ARENA	SAP Center
CAPACITY	17,562
AHL AFFILIATE	San Jose Barracuda
ECHL AFFILIATE	N/A
PLAYOFF RECORD	16-14 (since 2018)

ERIK KARLSSON

During 5-on-5 play, the Sharks averaged an NHL-worst 1.73 goals per game, a total that might be hard to improve upon without Burns. But Grier is hoping a deeper forward group – bolstered by the additions of Oskar Lindblom, Luke Kunin and Nico Sturm – perhaps coupled with a new approach from Quinn, can breathe new life into an offense that's been among the NHL's worst for the past three seasons.

>DEFENSE

The Sharks improved defensively compared to the 2020-21 season, when they allowed 3.50 goals per game, which ranked 30th out of 31 teams. That number was cut to 3.18 (21st) last year.

But how will they replace the 26 minutes per game that Burns provided? Grier said it's going to have to be by committee. Matt Benning and Markus Nutivaara were signed as free agents to help with the Sharks' blueline depth, and it appears Nikolai Knyzhov, San Jose's top rookie in 2020-21, will return after a season lost due to injury. Still, the Sharks are going to need Karlsson, Mario Ferraro, Jaycob Megna and Marc-Edouard Vlasic to lead the way.

>GOALTENDING

The Sharks' goaltending improved last season with James Reimer and Adin Hill. But Kaapo Kahkonen appears poised to become the Sharks' new No. 1 after he was signed to a two-year, $5.5-million extension in July, making him the team's highest-paid netminder. Grier isn't opposed to keeping three goalies, at least for the start of the season. But perhaps Reimer or Hill will be used as a trade chip to help the Sharks in other areas.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

The Sharks' power play, thanks to 12 goals from Meier, came in at 19.0 percent, which ranked 22nd in the NHL. Meier is expected to lead the power play again, along with Karlsson, Tomas Hertl, Logan Couture and Alexander Barabanov. San Jose's penalty kill, meanwhile, ranked second in the league at 85.2 percent. Benning could take some of Burns' PK minutes, but the top penalty-killers will likely once again be Ferraro, Megna, Couture, Hertl, Nick Bonino and Matt Nieto.

>INTANGIBLES

Grier wants a team that can play playoff-style hockey: competitive and in the opponent's face. The Sharks felt their team chemistry improved last season versus the previous year, when Evander Kane was still with the club. With so many new faces, though, including a new coach in Quinn, the Sharks must quickly get on the same page.

>ROOKIES

Opportunities for rookies to crack the season-opening roster will be fewer than they were in recent years. That's by design. Since 2019, the Sharks have given out too many NHL jobs to players who weren't ready for prime time. That said, William Eklund, Thomas Bordeleau and Scott Reedy will all be vying for roster spots up front.

>X-FACTOR

The Sharks need better netminding, and it'll be a huge plus if Kahkonen can grow into a No. 1. San Jose also needs someone outside of Meier, Hertl and Couture to score goals. Perhaps with a new contract, a fresh start and a clean bill of health, Lindblom can be that guy.

>THE BRASS

Grier hit the ground running as he oversaw the draft and free agency and hired a new coach all within his first few weeks. He said the Sharks might have to take another step back before they go forward, but he wants them to be competitive again sooner rather than later.

CUP ODDS

71/1

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Timo Meier	1. Tomas Hertl	1. Alexander Barabanov
2. Oskar Lindblom	2. Logan Couture	2. Luke Kunin
3. Noah Gregor	3. Nick Bonino	3. Kevin Labanc
4. Matt Nieto	4. Nico Sturm	4. Steven Lorentz
5. William Eklund	5. Scott Reedy	5. Jasper Weatherby

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Erik Karlsson	6. Radim Simek	1. Kaapo Kahkonen
2. Mario Ferraro	7. Markus Nutivaara	2. James Reimer
3. Jaycob Megna	8. Ryan Merkley	3. Adin Hill
4. Marc-Edouard Vlasic	9. Nikolai Knyzhov	✚ INJURED
5. Matt Benning	10. Santeri Hatakka	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Brent Burns, D; Rudolfs Balcers, LW; Jonathan Dahlen, LW; Nicolas Meloche, D; Ryan Dzingel, LW; Lane Pederson, RW; John Leonard, LW; Sasha Chmelevski, C

JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

WILLIAM
EKLUND

EKLUND: STAN SZETO-USA TODAY SPORTS

FUTURE WATCH

AFTER MAKING HIS NHL NHL debut last season, look for top prospect William Eklund to concentrate on sticking with the team. His competitive two-way game will be a boon. Speaking of centers, Thomas Bordeleau is one to watch thanks to his playmaking skills – he made his Sharks debut after finishing his college days with Michigan. The 2022 draft class is solid, led by versatile Filip Bystedt, power forward Cam Lund and D-man Mattias Havelid.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. William Eklund, LW

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Djurgarden (Swe.)
Talented playmaker has great sense for game situations. Sharks were patient, but he's ready.
Acquired 7th overall, 2021 **NHL** '22-23

2. Thomas Bordeleau, C

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Michigan (Big Ten)
Crafts chances out of thin air with passing ability. Suited up for U.S. at World Championship.
Acquired 38th overall, 2020 **NHL** '23-24

3. Filip Bystedt, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Linkoping Jr. (Swe.)
Caught scouts' eyes with move to wing, but he's primarily a pivot. Lacks vision at times.
Acquired 27th overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

4. Cameron Lund, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Green Bay (USHL)
Skates and shoots like an NHL power forward. Now he needs game-in, game-out consistency
Acquired 34th overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

5. Ryan Merkley, D

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** San Jose (AHL)
Offense is there but decision-making can be iffy. Half-season in NHL key for development.
Acquired 21st overall, 2018 **NHL** '22-23

6. Ozzy Wiesblatt, RW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Prince Albert (WHL)
Carries the offense for WHL club, which is valuable experience. Six games in AHL.
Acquired 31st overall, 2020 **NHL** '23-24

7. Mattias Havelid, D

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Linkoping Jr. (Swe.)
Great speed and balance on the rush. An elite playmaker. Dad Niclas played 628 NHL games.
Acquired 45th overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

8. Benjamin Gaudreau, G

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Sarnia (OHL)
Competitive and quick on his feet, he impressed at rookie camp. San Jose won't rush him.
Acquired 81st overall, 2021 **NHL** '26-27

9. Brandon Coe, RW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** North Bay (OHL)
Physical attributes will make AHL move seamless, as will scoring ability. Fifth in OHL scoring.
Acquired 98th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

10. Daniil Gushchin, LW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Niagara (OHL)
Small but feisty and pairs it with great hands. Russian has played stateside since 2018-19.
Acquired 76th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Adin Hill	26	San Jose	25	10	11	1	2.66	.906
Mason Beaupit	19	Spokane (WHL)	49	20	22	4	3.63	.893
Magnus Chrona	22	Denver (NCHC)	37	28	8	1	2.11	.911
Aaron Dell	33	Rochester (AHL)	22	12	7	1	2.91	.909
Zachary Emond	22	Orlando (ECHL)	13	6	4	1	3.67	.879
Benjamin Gaudreau	19	Sarnia (OHL)	44	19	18	5	3.71	.891
Kaapo Kahkonen	26	Min/SJ	36	14	14	4	2.87	.912
Eetu Makiniemi	23	Chicago (AHL)	14	11	2	1	2.06	.922
Strauss Mann	24	Skelleftea (Swe)	22	13	9	0	2.19	.914
James Reimer	34	San Jose	48	19	17	10	2.90	.911
Mike Robinson	25	N. Hampshire (HE)	27	12	14	0	2.60	.904

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Eli Barnett	19	Victoria (BCHL)	53	3	10	13	40
Matt Benning	28	Nashville	65	0	11	11	39
Nick Cicek	22	San Jose (AHL)	53	5	20	25	62
Mario Ferraro	24	San Jose	63	2	12	14	16
Michael Fisher	18	St. Mark's (High-MA)	28	13	37	50	0
Jake Furlong	18	Halifax (QMJHL)	67	4	38	42	16
Artem Guryev	19	Peterborough (OHL)	37	1	11	12	86
Santeri Hatakka	21	Ives (Fin)	44	1	6	7	34
Mattias Havelid	18	Linkoping (Swe Jr.)	29	10	9	19	2
Erik Karlsson	32	San Jose	50	10	25	35	14
Evgenii Kashnikov	19	Gatineau (QMJHL)	62	13	19	32	64
Nikolai Knyzhov	24	San Jose	INJURED - DID NOT PLAY				
Gannon Laroque	19	Victoria (WHL)	63	10	42	52	71
Jaycob Megna	29	San Jose	44	2	6	8	16
Ryan Merkley	22	San Jose	39	1	5	6	8
Markus Nutivaara	28	Florida	1	0	1	1	0
Radim Simek	30	San Jose	36	1	1	2	8
Tony Sund	27	Rogle (Swe)	45	6	10	16	20
Marc-Edouard Vlasic	35	San Jose	75	3	11	14	18

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Andrew Agozzino	31	Belleville (AHL)	66	20	23	43	61
Alexander Barabanov	28	San Jose	70	10	29	39	14
Nick Bonino	34	San Jose	80	16	10	26	18
Thomas Bordeleau	20	Michigan (Big10)	37	12	25	37	35
Filip Bystedt	18	Linkoping (Swe Jr.)	40	16	33	49	40
Ethan Cardwell	20	Barrie (OHL)	49	23	35	58	28
Alexander Chmelevski	23	San Jose (AHL)	47	12	25	37	23
Brandon Coe	20	North Bay (OHL)	62	34	67	101	40
Logan Couture	33	San Jose	77	23	33	56	18
William Eklund	19	Djurgarden (Swe)	29	1	13	14	4
Jonah Gadjovich	23	San Jose (AHL)	43	1	2	3	74
Emil Galimov	30	St. Petersburg (KHL)	36	4	6	10	14
Liam Gilmartin	19	London (OHL)	55	16	18	34	48
Noah Gregor	24	San Jose	63	8	15	23	25
Daniil Gushchin	20	Niagara (OHL)	51	41	30	71	50
Dillon Hamaliuk	21	San Jose (AHL)	44	3	6	9	37
Tomas Hertl	28	San Jose	82	30	34	64	30
Timur Ibragimov	21	San Jose (AHL)	23	1	1	2	4
Theo Jacobsson	19	MoDo (Swe2)	37	2	1	3	2
Luke Kunin	24	Nashville	82	13	9	22	99
Kevin Labanc	26	San Jose	21	3	3	6	6
Reese Laubach	18	Northstar (High-MN)	57	51	51	102	83
Oskar Lindblom	26	San Jose	79	12	14	26	22
Steven Lorentz	26	Carolina	67	8	5	13	8
Cameron Lund	18	Green Bay (USHL)	62	25	25	50	49
Timo Meier	25	San Jose	77	35	41	76	54
Max McCue	19	London (OHL)	64	9	26	35	51
Joey Muldowney	18	Nichols (High-NY)	56	57	40	97	N/A
Matt Nieto	19	San Jose	70	6	11	17	19
Adam Raska	21	San Jose (AHL)	49	5	9	14	57
Scott Reedy	23	San Jose (AHL)	38	18	9	27	4
Tristen Robins	20	Saskatoon (WHL)	62	33	45	78	54
Mitchell Russell	21	North Bay (OHL)	64	41	47	88	26
Yegor Spiridonov	21	Orsk (Rus2)	23	1	2	3	4
Timofey Spitserov	20	Vermont (HE)	22	2	1	3	4
Nico Sturm	27	Min/Col	74	9	11	20	14
C.J. Suess	28	Manitoba (AHL)	46	14	14	28	16
Max Veronneau	26	Leksand (Swe)	51	34	26	60	14
Jeffrey Viel	25	San Jose	34	3	2	5	114
Jasper Weatherby	24	San Jose	50	5	6	11	18
Ozzy Wiesblatt	20	Prince Albert (WHL)	43	10	31	41	55
Alex Young	21	Colgate (ECAC)	39	10	21	31	51

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																			2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	P/GP	EVG	EVP	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	OTG	GWG	S	S%	TOI/GP	FOW%	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM
Timo Meier	77	35	41	76	-3	54	0.99	23	58	12	18	0	0	1	8	326	10.7	19:09	48.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tomas Hertl	82	30	34	64	-9	30	0.78	24	47	6	16	0	1	3	6	205	14.6	19:56	52.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Logan Couture	77	23	33	56	-11	18	0.73	16	36	5	17	2	3	1	3	199	11.6	18:56	48.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brent Burns	82	10	44	54	-15	42	0.66	6	35	4	18	0	1	0	0	203	4.9	26:09	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alexander Barabanov	70	10	29	39	-5	14	0.56	8	31	2	8	0	0	1	1	103	9.7	17:11	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Erik Karlsson	50	10	25	35	-14	14	0.70	10	25	0	10	0	0	1	2	117	8.6	23:28	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nick Bonino	80	16	10	26	-25	18	0.33	12	18	3	7	1	1	0	0	137	11.7	16:42	51.4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rudolfs Balcers	61	11	12	23	-3	20	0.38	11	22	0	0	0	1	0	1	98	11.2	15:02	40.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Noah Gregor	63	8	15	23	-21	25	0.37	8	20	0	3	0	0	0	1	156	5.1	14:56	34.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jonathan Dahlen	61	12	10	22	-25	12	0.36	9	15	3	7	0	0	0	2	105	11.4	13:48	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Matt Nieto	70	6	11	17	-20	19	0.24	6	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	82	7.3	14:24	15.4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Andrew Cogliano	56	4	11	15	-16	12	0.27	3	13	0	0	1	2	0	0	58	6.9	13:12	40.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Marc-Edouard Vlasic	75	3	11	14	-22	18	0.19	3	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	63	4.8	15:13	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mario Ferraro	63	2	12	14	-5	16	0.22	2	14	0	0	0	0	0	1	49	4.1	23:00	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jasper Weatherby	50	5	6	11	-14	18	0.22	4	9	1	2	0	0	0	0	45	11.1	11:14	50.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Scott Reedy	35	7	2	9	-8	10	0.26	4	6	3	3	0	0	0	2	33	21.2	11:11	40.2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jacob Middleton	45	3	6	9	3	69	0.20	3	7	0	1	0	1	0	0	51	5.9	19:03	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jaycob Megna	44	2	6	8	-1	16	0.18	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	5.0	19:07	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sasha Chmelevski	19	0	8	8	2	4	0.42	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	0.0	13:11	39.2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nicolas Meloche	50	2	5	7	-17	39	0.14	2	6	0	0	0	1	0	1	36	5.6	16:53	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kevin Labanc	21	3	3	6	-4	6	0.29	1	2	2	4	0	0	0	1	36	8.3	13:17	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ryan Merkley	39	1	5	6	-10	8	0.15	1	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	36	2.8	15:23	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jeffrey Viel	34	3	2	5	-2	114	0.15	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	10.0	8:48	33.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Thomas Bordeleau	8	0	5	5	-1	0	0.63	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	13	0.0	15:35	44.9	--	--	--	--	--	--
William Eklund	9	0	4	4	-3	2	0.44	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	8	0.0	14:20	37.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nick Merkley	9	1	2	3	-2	0	0.33	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	7	14.3	12:25	54.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jonah Gadjovich	43	1	2	3	-9	74	0.07	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	2.8	8:45	33.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Radim Simek	36	1	1	2	-13	8	0.06	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	4.0	13:17	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
John Leonard	14	1	1	2	-5	0	0.14	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	25	4.0	11:17	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lane Pederson	29	0	2	2	-16	10	0.07	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0.0	10:31	43.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Santeri Hatakka	9	0	2	2	-5	2	0.22	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0	12:38	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ryan Dzingel	6	1	0	1	-2	0	0.17	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	11.1	16:17	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jayden Halbgewachs	3	0	1	1	1	4	0.33	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.0	13:06	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Artemi Kniazev	1	0	0	0	-2	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	11:59	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Adam Raska	5	0	0	0	1	7	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	8:03	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON															2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	GP	GS	W	L	OT	SA	SVS	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO	G	A	P	PIM	GP	GS	W	L	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO
James Reimer	48	46	19	17	10	1,450	1,321	129	.911	2.9	2672:41	1	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Adin Hill	25	22	10	11	1	648	587	61	.906	2.66	1375:57	2	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kaapo Kahkonen	11	10	2	6	1	322	295	27	.916	2.86	565:59	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Zach Sawchenko	7	3	1	2	1	151	136	15	.901	3.35	268:58	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alex Stalock	1	1	0	1	0	28	22	6	.786	7.81	46:07	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Fri, Oct 7	@ Nashville *	2:00 PM
Sat, Oct 8	vs Nashville *	2:00 PM
Fri, Oct 14	vs Carolina	10:30 PM
Sat, Oct 15	vs Chicago	10:30 PM
Tue, Oct 18	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Thu, Oct 20	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	@ New Jersey	1:00 PM
Sun, Oct 23	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 25	vs Vegas	10:30 PM
Thu, Oct 27	vs Toronto	10:30 PM
Sat, Oct 29	vs Tampa Bay	4:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	vs Anaheim	10:30 PM
Thu, Nov 3	vs Florida	10:30 PM
Sat, Nov 5	vs Anaheim	10:30 PM
Thu, Nov 10	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Fri, Nov 11	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Sun, Nov 13	@ Minnesota	6:00 PM
Tue, Nov 15	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	vs Detroit	10:30 PM
Sat, Nov 19	vs NY Rangers	10:30 PM
Mon, Nov 21	vs Ottawa	10:30 PM
Wed, Nov 23	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 25	vs Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Sun, Nov 27	vs Vancouver	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 29	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 30	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 3	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 4	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 7	vs Vancouver	10:30 PM
Fri, Dec 9	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 13	vs Arizona	10:30 PM
Sat, Dec 17	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Sun, Dec 18	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 20	vs Calgary	10:30 PM
Thu, Dec 22	vs Minnesota	10:30 PM
Tue, Dec 27	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Thu, Dec 29	vs Philadelphia	10:30 PM
Sat, Dec 31	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Sun, Jan 1	@ Chicago	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 6	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 7	vs Boston	10:30 PM
Tue, Jan 10	@ Arizona	9:00 PM
Wed, Jan 11	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Fri, Jan 13	vs Edmonton	10:30 PM
Mon, Jan 16	vs New Jersey	4:00 PM
Wed, Jan 18	vs Dallas	10:30 PM
Sat, Jan 21	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 22	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 24	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Fri, Jan 27	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 28	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 7	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 9	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 12	@ Washington	1:00 PM
Tue, Feb 14	vs Pittsburgh	10:30 PM
Thu, Feb 16	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	vs Buffalo	10:30 PM
Mon, Feb 20	vs Seattle	4:00 PM
Thu, Feb 23	vs Nashville	10:30 PM
Sat, Feb 25	vs Chicago	10:30 PM
Tue, Feb 28	vs Montreal	10:30 PM
Thu, Mar 2	vs St. Louis	10:30 PM
Sat, Mar 4	vs Washington	6:00 PM
Mon, Mar 6	@ Winnipeg	7:30 PM
Tue, Mar 7	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Thu, Mar 9	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	vs Minnesota	10:30 PM
Tue, Mar 14	vs Columbus	10:30 PM
Thu, Mar 16	vs Seattle	10:30 PM
Sat, Mar 18	vs NY Islanders	10:30 PM
Mon, Mar 20	@ Edmonton	9:30 PM
Thu, Mar 23	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	@ Calgary	4:00 PM
Tue, Mar 28	vs Winnipeg	10:30 PM
Thu, Mar 30	vs Vegas	10:30 PM
Sat, Apr 1	@ Arizona	10:00 PM
Tue, Apr 4	vs Colorado	10:30 PM
Thu, Apr 6	vs Colorado	10:30 PM
Sat, Apr 8	vs Edmonton	4:00 PM
Mon, Apr 10	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Wed, Apr 12	@ Calgary	10:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM

*Global Series in Czechia

TIMO MEIER

JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

SEATTLE KRAKEN

THN PREDICTION | 7TH IN PACIFIC

PHILIPP GRUBAUER

BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY GEOFF BAKER

DESPITE THE TIRED narrative that the Kraken shouldn't have expected Vegas-like success in Year 1, the team and fan base still held out hope for something close to .500 hockey. Instead, they were disappointed when Seattle produced the NHL's third-worst record despite salary-cap and expansion-draft advantages.

The goaltending was subpar, the scoring was abysmal and the sluggish defense was prone to costly mistakes. Seattle hopes it addressed scoring with the trade for Oliver Bjorkstrand – who had more goals and points with Columbus last season than any Kraken player – plus the free-agent signing of Andre Burakovsky and promotions of first-round picks Matty Beniers and Shane Wright. Right-handed defenseman Justin Schultz was also signed to hasten zone exits.

The early local Kraken buzz has worn off, with declining ticket resale values, plunging television ratings and all-around market indifference. The 2022-23 season will be about regaining market confidence. The trade for Bjorkstrand appears to be a sign the team hopes to stay relevant well through the winter while allowing center prospects Beniers and Wright time to get comfortable with the NHL game. Keeping fans interested in the present while plotting the future is critical in a crowded Seattle sports market.

>OFFENSE

Jared McCann led the team with 27 goals and 50 points, while Vince Dunn's 35 points paced all Kraken defenders. The coaching staff hoped for a physical, transitional team that could jump on neutral-zone mistakes. But with limited creativity, Seattle was often reduced to dumping pucks in with Yanni Gourde, Brandon Tanev and others banging around for possession. It proved a physically depleting formula that was further slowed by injuries to Tanev, Jaden Schwartz and others.

Joonas Donskoi scoring only twice in 75 games raised questions about the system's effectiveness, though 2021 No. 2 overall pick Beniers registering nine points in 10 late-season games was a ray of hope.

>DEFENSE

As part of their transitional offensive strategy, the Kraken wanted quick, physical puck-movers. Jamie Oleksiak and Adam Larsson provided the physical part, but zone exits were often slow. Dunn was inconsistent but improved as the season progressed. Carson Soucy surprisingly led the blueline with 10 goals.

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD	27-49-6 (.366)
OVERTIME	1-5
SHOOTOUT	3-1
OVERALL	30th
OFFENSE	2.60 GPG (28th)
DEFENSE	3.46 GAA (24th)
POWER PLAY	14.6% (29th)
PENALTY KILL	74.9% (31st)
CORSI FOR/60	52.9 (22nd)
CORSI AGAINST/60	51.66 (6th)
ICE TIME LEAD (F)	Y. Gourde (18:29)
ICE TIME LEAD (D)	A. Larsson (22:17)

FAST FACTS

COACH	Dave Hakstol
GM	Ron Francis
ARENA	Climate Pledge Arena
CAPACITY	17,100
AHL AFFILIATE	Coachella Valley Firebirds
ECHL AFFILIATE	Kansas City Mavericks
PLAYOFF RECORD	0-0 (since 2018)

While giveaways were generally few, they were often terribly timed and led to lethal odd-man rushes or easy tap-in goals. Communication with the goaltenders was off, resulting in giveaways, deflections and unintended screens.

>GOALTENDING

Starting goalie Philipp Grubauer was awful early but improved in the second half, as did backup Chris Driedger – who begins this season on the injury shelf, replaced by free agent Martin Jones. The Kraken aren't sure what they've got with Jones and beyond. Joey Daccord had an excellent AHL season but underwhelmed in limited NHL opportunities. Swedish veteran Magnus Hellberg was signed out of the KHL to push Jones in training camp and provide insurance in case of injury.

JARED MCCANN

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

>SPECIAL TEAMS

There was very little power-play creativity, and any success only occurred when players such as Gourde or Schwartz went to the net or McCann got off a one-timer. The late-season arrival of Beniers helped with creativity, and the additions of Bjorkstrand and Burakovsky should vastly improve zone entries and finishing. The lack of a right-handed defenseman also loomed large, and acquiring Schultz should increase opportunities. Donskoi's greatest success came from killing penalties, and the mid-season addition of center Karson Kuhlman helped. But as with 5-on-5 play, the lack of quick zone exits hurt the PK unit, as did an inability to capitalize on easy clearance opportunities. The Kraken often came undone once opponents gained offensive-zone possession for 20 seconds or more.

>INTANGIBLES

Seattle had toughness and leadership in players such as Gourde, Larsson, Tanev, Schwartz and Jordan Eberle, but injuries limited their ability to lead by example. Gourde should be named captain in training camp, providing greater stability than when Mark Giordano held that role as an obvious partial-season rental before being traded.

>ROOKIES

Beyond trying to stay relevant, the Kraken are gearing much of this season toward getting Beniers and top 2022 draft pick Wright – who unexpectedly fell into their lap at No. 4 overall – acclimated to the NHL. Beyond seizing the golden marketing opportunity of being gifted two future top centermen, the Kraken want both to get through growing pains this season in hopes of contributing to a playoff run in 2023-24 and beyond.

>X-FACTOR

The Kraken and their analytics-heavy projections believed this should have been close to a .500 team last season. If Grubauer reverts to form, it's possible they reverse plenty of one- and two-goal losses and stay relevant throughout the winter. Seattle played close to .500 hockey for a prolonged post-trade deadline stretch and should be much improved offensively.

>THE BRASS

All eyes will be on coach Dave Hakstol early to show his transition system can work with the upgrades and players not saddled with the burden of playing on a first-year expansion team. GM Ron Francis faces pressure to restore fan confidence after his conservative approach in the expansion draft yielded few "side deals" and burned several picks in lieu of accumulating potential trade chits. He devoted much of last season to building up trade value in players who were later flipped for the draft capital he'd failed to attain in last summer's expansion run-up. Francis finally used his ample salary-cap space and some of that draft capital to obtain Bjorkstrand. H

CUP ODDS

70/1

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Oliver Bjorkstrand	1. Matty Beniers	1. Jordan Eberle
2. Jared McCann	2. Yanni Gourde	2. Andre Burakovsky
3. Jaden Schwartz	3. Alexander Wennberg	3. Brandon Tanev
4. Ryan Donato Karson	4. Morgan Geekie	4. Joonas Donskoi
5. Kuhlman	5. Shane Wright	5. Kole Lind

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Adam Larsson	6. Will Borgen	1. Philipp Grubauer
2. Vince Dunn	7. Michal Kempny	2. Chris Driedger ✚
3. Jamie Oleksiak	8. Cale Fleury	3. Martin Jones
4. Justin Schultz	9. Gustav Olofsson	✚ INJURED
5. Carson Soucy	10. Brogan Rafferty	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Riley Sheahan, C; Victor Rask, C; Derrick Pouliot, D; Daniel Sprong, RW, Haydn Fleury, D

MATTY BENIERS

FUTURE WATCH

GM RON FRANCIS ESSENTIALLY did what we thought he would...just a year later. Instead of using the 2021 expansion draft as catalyst to leverage assets and picks from other teams, he used cap space at the 2022 trade deadline to his advantage. At the draft, that meant 11 selections, led by Shane Wright at No. 4. Wright was a gift, but picks like nifty Jagger Firkus and D-man Ty Nelson were savvy. Seattle now has its own AHL team with Coachella Valley.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Matty Beniers, C

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Michigan (Big Ten)

Nine points in 10 NHL games to end last season. He looks ready to challenge for the Calder.

Acquired 2nd overall, 2021 **NHL** '22-23

2. Shane Wright, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Kingston (OHL)

Started slow but hit his stride as draft year progressed. Complete, two-way, NHL-ready pivot.

Acquired 4th overall, 2022 **NHL** '22-23

3. Jagger Firkus, RW

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Moose Jaw (WHL)

A highlight-reel scorer fit for the YouTube era. His slight frame belies his feistiness.

Acquired 35th overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

4. Ryker Evans, D

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Regina (WHL)

Came into his own and gained confidence. Kraken have high hopes given his toolbox.

Acquired 35th overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

5. Jani Nyman, RW

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Koovee (Fin.2)

Power-forward frame and a goal-scorer's touch. Skating in need of significant improvement.

Acquired 49th overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

6. Ryan Winterton, C

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Hamilton (OHL)

Returned from shoulder injury to showcase big-time scoring ability. Just needs added bulk.

Acquired 67th overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

7. Kole Lind, RW

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Charlotte (AHL)

Decent look after productive AHL season. Skates, shoots well. Puck-management issues.

Acquired Exp. Draft (Van), July 2021 **NHL** '22-23

8. Niklas Kokko, G

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Karpat Jr. (Fin.)

Remarkably consistent and composed at just 18. Will apprentice in Finland's top league.

Acquired 58th overall, 2022 **NHL** '28-29

9. David Goyette, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Sudbury (OHL)

Has shown ability to carry offense and play all situations. Slim build may be a detriment.

Acquired 61st overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

10. Ty Nelson, D

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** North Bay (OHL)

Plays a mistake-free game and makes a good first pass. At 5-foot-10, he has limitations.

Acquired 68th overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Joey Daccord	26	Charlotte (AHL)	34	19	11	2	2.28	.925
Chris Driedger	28	Seattle	27	9	14	1	2.96	.915
Philipp Grubauer	30	Seattle	55	18	31	5	3.16	.889
Magnus Hellberg	31	Sochi (KHL)	37	13	20	4	2.42	.917
Martin Jones	32	Philadelphia	35	12	18	3	3.42	.900
Niklas Kokko	18	Karpat (Fin Jr.)	29	17	10	0	2.06	.914
Semyon Vyazovoi	19	Ufa (Rus Jr.)	41	25	10	3	2.03	.927

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Will Borgen	25	Seattle	36	2	6	8	28
Vince Dunn	25	Seattle	73	7	28	35	63
Ryker Evans	20	Regina (WHL)	63	14	47	61	96
Cale Fleury	23	Charlotte (AHL)	58	7	26	33	39
Tyson Jugnauth	18	W. Kelowna (BCHL)	52	9	41	50	26
Michal Kempny	32	Hershey (AHL)	24	0	7	7	32
Adam Larsson	29	Seattle	82	8	17	25	55
Ty Nelson	18	North Bay (OHL)	66	9	42	51	39
Jamie Oleksiak	29	Seattle	71	1	16	17	54
Gustav Olofsson	27	Charlotte (AHL)	41	2	7	9	32
Ville Ottavainen	20	JYP (Fin Jr.)	44	6	8	14	59
Brogan Rafferty	27	San Diego (AHL)	65	4	20	24	36
Justin Schultz	32	Washington	74	4	19	23	16
Peetro Seppala	22	KooKoo (Fin)	39	3	5	8	26
Carson Soucy	28	Seattle	64	10	11	21	47

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Matty Beniers	19	Michigan (Big10)	37	20	23	43	16
Oliver Bjorkstrand	27	Columbus	80	28	29	57	16
Andre Burakovsky	27	Colorado	80	22	39	61	18
Ryan Donato	26	Seattle	74	16	15	31	40
Joonas Donskoi	30	Seattle	75	2	20	22	14
Jordan Eberle	32	Seattle	79	21	23	44	14
Morgan Geekie	24	Seattle	73	7	15	22	18
Yanni Gourde	30	Seattle	74	21	27	48	45
David Goyette	18	Sudbury (OHL)	66	33	40	73	33
Jagger Firkus	18	Moose Jaw (WHL)	66	36	44	80	34
Jesper Froden	28	Providence (AHL)	49	16	18	34	26
Barrett Hall	18	Gentry (High-MN)	25	25	30	55	14
John Hayden	27	Buffalo	55	2	4	4	84
Luke Henman	22	Charlotte (AHL)	50	6	8	14	32
Cameron Hughes	25	Providence (AHL)	59	14	31	45	39
Kyle Jackson	20	North Bay (OHL)	45	30	32	62	23
Justin Janicke	19	Notre Dame (Big10)	33	2	8	10	31
Tye Kartye	21	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	63	45	34	79	57
Karson Kuhlman	27	Bos/Sea	44	3	7	10	6
Kole Lind	23	Charlotte (AHL)	46	17	18	35	106
Ben MacDonald	18	Noble&Green. (High-MA)	22	14	15	29	4
Jared McCann	26	Seattle	74	27	23	50	33
Max McCormick	30	Charlotte (AHL)	46	13	16	29	42
Jacob Melanson	19	Acadie-Bath. (QMJHL)	54	35	21	56	85
Jani Nyman	18	Koovee (Fin2)	34	18	17	35	20
Ville Petman	22	SaiPa (Fin)	59	15	24	39	38
Austin Poganski	26	Manitoba (AHL)	49	9	21	30	20
Andrew Poturalski	28	Chicago (AHL)	71	28	73	101	36
Tucker Robertson	19	Peterborough (OHL)	68	41	40	81	48
Jaden Schwartz	30	Seattle	37	8	15	23	14
Brandon Tanev	30	Seattle	30	9	6	15	13
Alexander Wennberg	28	Seattle	80	11	26	37	28
Shane Wright	18	Kingston (OHL)	63	32	62	94	22
Alexander True	25	Charlotte (AHL)	60	18	24	42	45
Carsen Twarynski	24	Charlotte (AHL)	71	5	13	18	14
Ryan Winterton	19	Hamilton (OHL)	37	20	26	46	23

ADAM LARSSON

BENIERS: CANDICE WARD-USA TODAY SPORTS; LARSSON: STEPHEN BRASHEAR-USA TODAY SPORTS

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																			2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	P/GP	EVG	EVP	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	OTG	GWG	S	S%	TOI/GP	FOW%	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM
Jared McCann	74	27	23	50	-26	33	0.68	18	32	8	17	1	1	0	1	199	13.6	16:08	45.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yanni Gourde	74	21	27	48	-13	45	0.65	17	37	3	7	1	4	0	3	127	16.5	18:29	49.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jordan Eberle	79	21	23	44	-28	14	0.56	17	35	4	9	0	0	0	2	164	12.8	17:57	30.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alex Wennberg	80	11	26	37	-26	28	0.46	9	30	2	6	0	1	0	2	95	11.6	17:51	46.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Vince Dunn	73	7	28	35	-21	63	0.48	5	24	2	11	0	0	0	0	121	5.8	20:41	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ryan Donato	74	16	15	31	-13	40	0.42	15	30	1	1	0	0	0	2	159	10.1	13:48	39.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Calle Jarnkrok	49	12	14	26	-15	2	0.53	10	21	2	5	0	0	0	1	82	14.6	16:48	49.4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Adam Larsson	82	8	17	25	-23	55	0.30	8	24	0	1	0	0	1	3	119	6.7	22:17	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jaden Schwartz	37	8	15	23	-13	14	0.62	7	19	1	4	0	0	0	0	101	7.9	18:27	48.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mark Giordano	55	6	17	23	-21	47	0.42	4	13	0	8	2	2	0	0	123	4.9	21:29	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Marcus Johansson	51	6	17	23	-22	4	0.45	3	14	3	9	0	0	0	1	81	7.4	16:35	38.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Morgan Geekie	73	7	15	22	-16	18	0.30	7	18	0	4	0	0	0	0	97	7.2	12:36	52.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Joonas Donskoi	75	2	20	22	-10	14	0.29	2	18	0	3	0	1	0	0	89	2.3	14:50	35.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Carson Soucy	64	10	11	21	7	47	0.33	9	17	0	2	1	2	0	1	97	10.3	17:40	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Colin Blackwell	39	8	9	17	1	4	0.44	6	15	0	0	2	2	0	1	61	13.1	12:29	46.4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mason Appleton	49	6	11	17	-4	14	0.35	6	17	0	0	0	0	0	2	68	8.8	14:18	35.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Riley Sheahan	69	4	13	17	6	2	0.25	4	15	0	0	0	2	0	0	69	5.8	12:03	47.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jamie Oleksiak	72	1	16	17	-1	54	0.24	1	16	0	0	0	1	0	0	95	1.1	19:20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brandon Tanev	30	9	6	15	4	13	0.50	6	12	2	2	1	1	0	3	51	17.7	14:34	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Matty Beniers	10	3	6	9	-1	0	0.90	1	5	2	4	0	0	0	0	18	16.7	16:56	42.4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Victor Rask	18	4	4	8	-3	0	0.44	4	7	0	1	0	0	0	1	28	14.3	14:33	60.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Will Borgen	36	2	6	8	1	28	0.22	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	4.1	15:17	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kole Lind	23	2	6	8	-1	12	0.35	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	6.5	11:50	35.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Karson Kuhlman	25	2	6	8	-2	6	0.32	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	4.4	13:10	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Daniel Sprong	16	6	0	6	-6	0	0.38	4	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	51	11.8	13:42	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jeremy Lauzon	53	1	5	6	-9	67	0.11	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	1.7	17:49	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Haydn Fleury	36	2	2	4	0	13	0.11	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	52	3.9	16:17	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Derrick Pouliot	9	0	3	3	6	2	0.33	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0.0	15:46	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nathan Bastian	12	1	1	2	-1	31	0.17	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10.0	9:14	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Austin Czarnik	6	0	2	2	0	0	0.33	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.0	10:48	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dennis Cholowski	4	0	2	2	1	0	0.50	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0.0	19:43	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alex Barré-Boulet	2	0	1	1	0	0	0.50	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	8:39	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Max McCormick	10	0	0	0	1	10	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0.0	8:06	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cale Fleury	9	0	0	0	-3	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.0	14:34	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alexander True	8	0	0	0	-2	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.0	8:15	44.4	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	GP	GS	W	L	OT	SA	SVS	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO	G	A	P	PIM	GP	GS	W	L	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO
Philipp Grubauer	55	54	18	31	5	1,479	1,315	164	.889	3.16	3111:25	2	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Chris Driedger	27	24	9	14	1	722	649	73	.899	2.96	1478:24	1	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Joey Daccord	5	4	0	4	0	140	119	21	.850	4.3	293:13	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--X

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Wed, Oct 12	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Thu, Oct 13	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Sat, Oct 15	vs Vegas	10:00 PM
Mon, Oct 17	vs Carolina	10:00 PM
Wed, Oct 19	vs St. Louis	10:00 PM
Fri, Oct 21	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Sun, Oct 23	@ Chicago	2:00 PM
Tue, Oct 25	vs Buffalo	10:00 PM
Thu, Oct 27	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 29	vs Pittsburgh	10:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Thu, Nov 3	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 5	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 8	vs Nashville	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 11	vs Minnesota	10:00 PM
Sun, Nov 13	vs Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	vs NY Rangers	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	vs Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Wed, Nov 23	vs San Jose	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 25	@ Vegas	8:00 PM
Sun, Nov 27	@ Anaheim	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 29	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Thu, Dec 1	vs Washington	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 3	vs Florida	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 6	vs Montreal	10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 9	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 11	@ Florida	6:00 PM
Tue, Dec 13	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 15	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 18	vs Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 20	vs St. Louis	10:00 PM
Thu, Dec 22	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Wed, Dec 28	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 30	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Sun, Jan 1	vs NY Islanders	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 3	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 5	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 7	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 9	@ Montreal	7:30 PM
Tue, Jan 10	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 12	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 14	@ Chicago	8:00 PM
Mon, Jan 16	vs Tampa Bay	4:00 PM
Tue, Jan 17	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 19	vs New Jersey	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	vs Colorado	10:00 PM
Wed, Jan 25	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Fri, Jan 27	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 28	vs Columbus	10:00 PM
Tue, Feb 7	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Thu, Feb 9	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 10	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 12	@ Philadelphia	1:00 PM
Tue, Feb 14	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 16	vs Philadelphia	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	vs Detroit	10:30 PM
Mon, Feb 20	@ San Jose	4:00 PM
Thu, Feb 23	vs Boston	10:00 PM
Sun, Feb 26	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 28	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 2	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Fri, Mar 3	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 5	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Tue, Mar 7	vs Anaheim	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 9	vs Ottawa	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	vs Dallas	10:00 PM
Mon, Mar 13	vs Dallas	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 16	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sat, Mar 18	vs Edmonton	4:00 PM
Tue, Mar 21	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Thu, Mar 23	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	@ Nashville	2:00 PM
Mon, Mar 27	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 30	vs Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 1	vs Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Mon, Apr 3	vs Arizona	10:00 PM
Tue, Apr 4	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Thu, Apr 6	vs Arizona	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 8	vs Chicago	10:00 PM
Mon, Apr 10	@ Arizona	10:00 PM
Tue, Apr 11	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	vs Vegas	10:00 PM

JORDAN
EBERLE

BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING

THN PREDICTION | 1ST IN ATLANTIC

NIKITA KUCHEROV

JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD
51-23-8 (.671)

OVERTIME
10-3

SHOOTOUT
2-5

OVERALL
7th

OFFENSE
3.48 GPG (8th)

DEFENSE
2.78 GAA (6th)

POWER PLAY
23.9% (8th)

PENALTY KILL
80.6% (11th)

CORSI FOR/60
54.45 (16th)

CORSI AGAINST/60
52.64 (7th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
N. Kucherov (19:59)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
V. Hedman (25:05)

BY ERIK ERLENDSSON

THE TAMPA BAY Lightning already hold a place in NHL history coming off a third consecutive trip to the Stanley Cup, the first team to do so in nearly 40 years. Despite losing to Colorado in the final, the Lightning's window for more titles remains wide open even after the departures of two key players in defenseman Ryan McDonagh and left winger Ondrej Palat.

After the salary cap caused significant roster turnover in the previous two off-seasons (six key players from their championship teams departed), GM Julien BriseBois retooled the lineup and locked up more of the core to maintain Tampa Bay's status among the league's elite. For a team that expects to contend for more championships, the roster has undergone some reshaping with the acquisitions of support forwards Nick Paul (who signed a seven-year deal to stay) and Brandon Hagel at the trade deadline. But BriseBois also kept a big part of the roster intact, re-signing center Anthony Cirelli and defensemen Mikhail Sergachev and Erik Cernak to eight-year extensions, ensuring the Lightning remain in the Cup mix for years to come.

>OFFENSE

Tampa Bay led the league in scoring for three consecutive seasons from 2017-18 through 2019-20 and remained in the top 10 in goals scored in each of the past two. They continue to be one of the top offensive threats in the league – the Bolts scored six or more goals on 13 occasions last season – which Tampa Bay accomplished with Nikita Kucherov limited to 47 games and Brayden Point injured for six weeks. Steven Stamkos had an MVP-worthy season after setting a career high with 106 points.

The top-nine forwards will have a different look with a full season of Paul and Hagel along with the return of Vladislav Namestnikov as a free agent, and the latter two are both former 20-goal scorers.

>DEFENSE

After being a strength for the past four seasons, the left side took a significant hit with the departure of Mc-

FAST FACTS

COACH
Jon Cooper

GM
Julien BriseBois

ARENA
Amalie Arena

CAPACITY
19,902

AHL AFFILIATE
Syracuse Crunch

ECHL AFFILIATE
Orlando Solar Bears

PLAYOFF RECORD
57-32 (since 2018)

ANDREI VASILEVSKIY

Donagh to Nashville. Perennial Norris Trophy candidate Victor Hedman remains at the top of his game coming off a career season in goals (20), assists (65) and points (85). Sergachev will elevate his role while veteran Ian Cole was brought in to play third-pairing minutes and kill penalties.

There are question marks on the right side as well after the departure of Jan Rutta to Pittsburgh. Behind Cernak, there's uncertainty. Zach Bogosian is recovering from shoulder surgery, while 2017 first-round pick Cal Foote has yet to secure a regular spot, and Philippe Myers, acquired from Nashville in the McDonagh trade, has been trending the wrong way over the past couple of years. Finding a consistent partner on the right side for Hedman will be a top priority in training camp.

>GOALTENDING

For the first time in his five seasons as a full-time starter, Andrei Vasilevskiy did not finish last season as a finalist for the Vezina Trophy, though he did lead the league in victories for a fifth consecutive year. As long as Vasilevskiy stays healthy, he'll again contend for the Vezina and keep the Lightning in the mix for the Cup. Veteran stopper Brian Elliott returns as backup while Maxime Lagace re-signed as the No. 3.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

Tampa Bay's power play has been a consistent top-10 unit in the league over the past half-dozen seasons, and with Kucherov running the top unit from the right circle, Hedman on the point and Stamkos set up on the left side, it's as dangerous as any unit in the league. When the top unit is clicking, the Lightning can make teams pay. But it can also be inconsistent and predictable at times. Cirelli and Paul proved to be a top penalty-killing pair during the playoffs, but the top PK defensive pair will get a new look with Cole stepping in to replace McDonagh's role.

>INTANGIBLES

Last season, Stamkos dubbed his team the 'Tampa Bay Find-A-Ways' for their ability to find ways to win games. It's an approach that carried them all the way to a third straight Stanley Cup final, and it derives from a willingness from the players to sacrifice themselves for the good of the team. It's that sort of team culture the leadership group embodies that resonates through the dressing room.

>ROOKIES

With Bogosian sidelined until at least November, the right side of the blueline will be a rotation that could open the door for 24-year-old Nick Perbix, a 2022 U.S. Olympian who's turning pro after four years at St. Cloud State. Up front, second-year pro Cole Koepke, who scored 20 goals in 69 games last season as a rookie with AHL Syracuse, is on the radar. So to is Gabriel Fortier, who had a 10-game call-up with the big club last season.

CANDICE WARD-USA TODAY SPORTS

CUP ODDS

13/1

>X-FACTOR

Since the 2017-18 season, Vasilevskiy has been the backbone of Tampa Bay's success, rarely faltering when the team needed him to prop them up. At just 28, as long as he remains healthy, Vasilevskiy gives the Lightning a chance not only to win on any given night but to win more championships, too.

>THE BRASS

Even with all the success over the past several years, Jon Cooper rarely gets recognized as one of the NHL's best coaches, having never won the Jack Adams Award and only being named a finalist twice in nine years. Same for BriseBois, who has shown boldness at the trade deadline while performing salary-cap gymnastics to keep the team competitive. Tampa added former Detroit coach Jeff Blashill to replace outgoing assistant Derek Lalonde, who took the head job with the Wings.

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Alex Killorn	1. Brayden Point	1. Nikita Kucherov
2. Nick Paul	2. Steven Stamkos	2. Brandon Hagel
3. Ross Colton	3. Anthony Cirelli ✚	3. Vladislav Namestnikov
4. Pat Maroon	4. Pierre-Edouard Bellemare	4. Corey Perry
5. Gabriel Fortier	5. Gemel Smith	5. Alex Barre-Boulet

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Victor Hedman	6. Cal Foote	1. Andrei Vasilevskiy
2. Mikhail Sergachev	7. Philippe Myers	2. Brian Elliott
3. Erik Cernak	8. Haydn Fleury	3. Maxime Lagace
4. Zach Bogosian ✚	9. Nick Perbix	✚ INJURED
5. Ian Cole	10. Sean Day	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Ondrej Palat, LW; Ryan McDonagh, D; Jan Rutta, D; Fredrik Claesson, D

HUGO ALNEFELT

FUTURE WATCH

THE BOLTS RARELY DRAFT early anymore (Stanley Cup runs will do that), but the system has options thanks to depth picks who have blossomed. A number of those have been NCAA players such as Nick Perbix and Cole Koepke, so it's no surprise Tampa Bay used its 2022 first-round selection on high-impact NTDP winger Isaac Howard, a Minnesota-Duluth commit. Overager Lucas Edmonds will be interesting to watch after a monster OHL campaign.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Hugo Alnefelt, G

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Syracuse (AHL)
Battled injuries in first AHL season and struggled to find form. Quite athletic for his size.
Acquired 71st overall, 2019 **NHL** '24-25

2. Isaac Howard, LW

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** USA U18 (NTDP)
Small stature dictates his quick, savvy, skillful game. It also means he can be pushed around.
Acquired 31st overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

3. Jack Finley, C

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Winnipeg (WHL)
Massive frame and remarkably good skater for size. Son of former NHLer Jeff has big upside.
Acquired 57th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

4. Nick Perbix, D

Age 24 **2021-22 Team** St. Cloud State (NCHC)
NCAA output has been impressive, and right-shot 'D' are valuable assets. U.S. Olympian.
Acquired 169th overall, 2017 **NHL** '23-24

5. Jack Thompson, D

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)
Skilled with the puck and standout skater. Made most of pandemic year playing in Sweden.
Acquired 93rd overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

6. Lucas Edmonds, RW

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Kingston (OHL)
Passed over in three drafts playing in Sweden. Bustout overage season. Ready for pro level.
Acquired 86th overall, 2022 **NHL** '23-24

7. Alex Barre-Boulet, RW

Age 25 **2021-22 Team** Syracuse (AHL)
Undrafted winger has proven talent in AHL after another big year. Snatched back from Seattle.
Acquired Waivers (Sea), Oct. 2021 **NHL** '22-23

8. Cole Koepke, LW

Age 24 **2021-22 Team** Syracuse (AHL)
Potted 20 goals as first-year pro after successful NCAA career. Potential late-round steal.
Acquired 183rd overall, 2018 **NHL** '23-24

9. Gabriel Fortier, LW

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Syracuse (AHL)
His work ethic and leadership are qualities any coach will love. Has played 10 NHL games.
Acquired 59th overall, 2018 **NHL** '24-25

10. Roman Schmidt, D

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Kitchener (OHL)
Physical force had good first year in OHL. Played for U.S. national team at U-17, U-18 levels.
Acquired 96th overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Hugo Alnefelt	21	Syracuse (AHL)	23	10	7	4	3.14	.882
Brian Elliott	37	Tampa Bay	19	11	4	3	2.43	.912
Max Lagace	29	Syracuse (AHL)	36	23	9	3	2.31	.910
Nick Malik	20	KooKoo (Fin)	34	15	9	9	1.97	.922
Ty Taylor	23	MacEwan (USports)	13	1	11	0	4.16	.890
Andrei Vasilevsky	28	Tampa Bay	63	39	18	5	2.49	.916

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Zach Bogosian	32	Tampa Bay	48	3	5	8	53
Declan Carlile	22	Merrimack (HE)	35	7	17	24	8
Trevor Carrick	28	San Diego (AHL)	61	10	10	20	45
Erik Cernak	25	Tampa Bay	55	1	12	13	46
Ian Cole	33	Carolina	75	2	17	19	83
Max Crozier	22	Providence (HE)	32	7	16	23	16
Sean Day	24	Syracuse (AHL)	69	8	32	40	31
Haydn Fleury	26	Seattle	36	2	2	4	13
Cal Foote	23	Tampa Bay	56	2	7	9	29
Alex Gagne	20	N. Hampshire (HE)	33	1	7	8	16
Dyllan Gill	18	Rouyn-Nor. (QMJHL)	66	6	15	21	24
Victor Hedman	31	Tampa Bay	82	20	65	85	36
Dominik Masin	26	Ilves (Fin)	44	1	10	11	67
Philippe Myers	25	Nashville	27	1	3	4	12
Nick Perbix	24	St. Cloud St. (NCHC)	31	6	25	31	14
Eamon Powell	20	Boston Col. (HE)	38	0	9	9	4
Daniil Pylenkov	22	St. Petersburg (KHL)	43	5	6	11	2
Darren Raddysh	26	Syracuse (AHL)	61	7	18	25	40
Brent Seabrook	37	INJURED - DID NOT PLAY					
Dmitri Semykin	22	Orlando (ECHL)	30	3	5	8	49
Mikhail Sergachev	24	Tampa Bay	78	7	31	38	59
Roman Schmidt	19	Kitchener (OHL)	68	11	22	33	41
Jack Thompson	20	Sby/SSM (OHL)	65	21	36	57	10

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Alex Barre-Boulet	25	Syracuse (AHL)	58	16	47	63	32
Pierre-Edouard Bellemare	37	Tampa Bay	80	9	11	20	19
Maxim Cajkovic	21	Orlando (ECHL)	25	8	4	12	16
Nick Capone	20	Connecticut (HE)	31	4	7	11	28
Anthony Cirelli	25	Tampa Bay	76	17	26	43	70
Ross Colton	26	Tampa Bay	79	22	17	39	24
Dylan Duke	19	Michigan (Big10)	41	10	9	19	20
Jaydon Dureau	21	Portland (WHL)	49	24	42	66	24
Lucas Edmonds	21	Kingston (OHL)	68	34	79	113	14
Jack Finley	20	Spo/Wpg	39	19	15	34	28
Robert Flinton	19	Cedar Rapids (USHL)	57	11	10	21	65
Gabriel Fortier	22	Syracuse (AHL)	72	14	21	35	33
Gage Goncalves	21	Syracuse (AHL)	70	17	15	32	39
Maxim Groshev	20	SKA-Neva (Rus2)	16	1	11	12	4
Cole Guttman	23	Denver (NCHC)	41	19	26	45	26
Brandon Hagel	24	Chi/TB	77	25	19	44	31
Isaac Howard	18	USA U18 (NTDP)	60	33	49	82	42
Niko Huuhtanen	19	Everett (WHL)	65	37	40	77	85
Alex Killorn	33	Tampa Bay	82	25	34	59	66
Cole Koepke	24	Syracuse (AHL)	69	20	19	39	55
Nikita Kucherov	29	Tampa Bay	47	25	44	69	22
Connor Kurth	19	Dubuque (USHL)	62	35	46	81	40
Bennett MacArthur	21	Acadie-Bath. (QMJHL)	54	42	35	77	28
Cameron MacDonald	19	Saint John (QMJHL)	67	15	19	34	59
Pat Maroon	24	Tampa Bay	81	11	16	27	134
Grant Mismash	23	Milwaukee (AHL)	57	6	6	12	20
Vladislav Namestnikov	29	Det/Dal	75	16	14	30	45
Nick Paul	27	Ott/TB	80	16	16	32	39
Corey Perry	37	Tampa Bay	82	19	21	40	66
Brayden Point	26	Tampa Bay	66	28	30	58	33
Felix Robert	23	WB/Scranton (AHL)	63	16	18	34	30
Simon Ryfors	25	Syracuse (AHL)	72	11	24	35	31
Mikhail Shalagin	23	Kha/Novem (Rus2)	42	13	19	32	20
Gemel Smith	28	GR/Syr (AHL)	16	5	4	9	10
Steven Stamkos	32	Tampa Bay	81	42	64	106	36
Ilya Usov	21	Minsk (KHL)	40	9	17	26	12
Klavs Veinbergs	19	Riga (Rus Jr.)	47	16	8	24	36
Daniel Walcott	28	Syracuse (AHL)	63	6	7	13	79
Samuel Walker	23	Minnesota (NCHC)	39	14	13	27	20
McKade Webster	22	Denver (NCHC)	39	6	8	14	19

ALNEFELT: PHOTO BY HV71

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																			2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	P/GP	EVG	EVP	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	OTG	GWG	S	S%	TOI/GP	FOW%	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM
Steven Stamkos	81	42	64	106	24	36	1.31	26	70	16	36	0	0	3	11	241	17.4	18:29	51.0	23	11	8	19	7	25
Victor Hedman	82	20	65	85	26	36	1.04	14	47	6	38	0	0	1	6	219	9.1	25:05	--	23	3	16	19	2	10
Nikita Kucherov	47	25	44	69	1	22	1.47	16	39	9	30	0	0	0	1	156	16.0	19:59	100.0	23	8	19	27	7	14
Alex Killorn	82	25	34	59	1	66	0.72	19	45	6	14	0	0	0	2	164	15.2	18:42	16.7	23	0	4	4	-5	12
Brayden Point	66	28	30	58	-5	33	0.88	18	36	10	22	0	0	2	4	176	15.9	19:28	51.1	9	2	3	5	-7	4
Ondrej Palat	77	18	31	49	15	20	0.64	17	42	1	6	0	1	2	5	143	12.6	16:30	11.1	23	11	10	21	10	10
Anthony Cirelli	76	17	26	43	15	70	0.57	13	34	3	8	1	1	1	4	146	11.6	18:19	46.5	23	3	5	8	1	8
Corey Perry	82	19	21	40	9	66	0.49	13	32	6	8	0	0	0	4	153	12.4	13:31	50.0	23	6	5	11	-2	26
Ross Colton	79	22	17	39	4	24	0.49	21	34	1	5	0	0	0	4	159	13.8	12:48	52.2	23	5	4	9	-2	13
Mikhail Sergachev	78	7	31	38	6	59	0.49	6	30	1	7	0	1	0	1	149	4.7	22:28	--	23	2	8	10	7	18
Pat Maroon	81	11	16	27	20	134	0.33	8	21	3	6	0	0	0	0	102	10.8	12:24	50.0	23	4	2	6	4	32
Ryan McDonagh	71	4	22	26	15	16	0.37	4	25	0	1	0	0	0	0	85	4.7	22:27	0.0	23	1	4	5	1	14
Pierre-Edouard Bellemare	80	9	11	20	24	19	0.25	8	19	0	0	1	1	0	1	72	12.5	13:45	51.7	23	2	1	3	0	6
Mathieu Joseph	58	8	10	18	4	23	0.31	6	15	0	0	2	3	1	2	67	11.9	13:42	40.9	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jan Rutta	76	3	15	18	25	47	0.24	3	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	86	3.5	16:23	--	17	1	4	5	5	17
Nicholas Paul	21	5	9	14	4	17	0.67	4	12	0	0	1	2	0	1	35	14.3	14:06	56.0	23	5	4	9	0	6
Erik Cernak	55	1	12	13	7	46	0.24	1	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	86	1.2	19:09	--	23	1	1	2	1	12
Taylor Raddysh	53	5	7	12	5	8	0.23	4	10	0	1	1	1	0	1	61	8.2	11:03	40.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cal Foote	56	2	7	9	6	29	0.16	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	4.1	13:08	--	13	0	2	2	1	6
Zach Bogosian	48	3	5	8	2	53	0.17	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	60	5.0	15:22	--	22	0	3	3	0	4
Brandon Hagel	22	4	3	7	-4	8	0.32	3	5	0	0	1	2	0	0	31	12.9	13:35	46.2	23	2	4	6	0	25
Boris Katchouk	38	2	4	6	3	25	0.16	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	36	5.6	9:49	41.2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alex Barre-Boulet	14	3	2	5	0	4	0.36	3	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	16	18.8	11:20	40.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Andrej Sustr	15	1	0	1	-1	6	0.07	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10.0	10:33	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Gabriel Fortier	10	1	0	1	-2	4	0.10	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	7.1	9:17	100.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Riley Nash	10	0	0	0	-1	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.0	11:22	52.9	8	0	0	0	0	2
Fredrik Claesson	9	0	0	0	-3	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.0	9:52	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Remi Elie	1	0	0	0	-2	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	10:57	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Darren Raddysh	4	0	0	0	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	10:40	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sean Day	2	0	0	0	-2	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	10:43	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	GP	GS	W	L	OT	SA	SVS	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO	G	A	P	PIM	GP	GS	W	L	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO
Andrei Vasilevskiy	63	63	39	18	5	1,868	1,712	156	.916	2.49	3760:45	2	6	23	23	14	9	752	693	59	.922	2.52	1402:42	1	0
Brian Elliott	19	17	11	4	3	489	446	43	.912	2.43	1063:25	1	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Maxime Lagace	2	2	1	1	0	58	48	10	.828	6.11	98:08	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hugo Alnefelt	1	0	0	0	0	10	7	3	.700	9.00	20:00	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Tue, Oct 11	@ NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Fri, Oct 14	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 15	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 18	vs Philadelphia	8:00 PM
Fri, Oct 21	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 25	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Wed, Oct 26	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 29	@ San Jose	4:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 3	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 5	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 8	vs Edmonton	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 11	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 13	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 15	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Mon, Nov 21	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 25	vs St. Louis	7:30 PM
Mon, Nov 28	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 29	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 1	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 3	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 6	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 8	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 10	vs Florida	4:00 PM
Tue, Dec 13	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 15	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 17	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 20	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 21	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 23	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 28	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 29	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 31	vs Arizona	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 3	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Wed, Jan 4	@ Minnesota	9:30 PM
Fri, Jan 6	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 10	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 12	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 14	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Mon, Jan 16	@ Seattle	4:00 PM
Wed, Jan 18	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 19	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	@ Calgary	3:00 PM
Tue, Jan 24	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 26	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 28	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 6	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Tue, Feb 7	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 9	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 11	@ Dallas	1:00 PM
Tue, Feb 14	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Wed, Feb 15	@ Arizona	9:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	@ Vegas	10:30 PM
Tue, Feb 21	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 23	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 25	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 26	@ Pittsburgh	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 28	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 2	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 5	@ Carolina	3:00 PM
Tue, Mar 7	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 9	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 12	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 14	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 16	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 18	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 19	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 21	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 23	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	@ Boston	1:00 PM
Tue, Mar 28	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 30	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 1	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Wed, Apr 5	@ NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Thu, Apr 6	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sat, Apr 8	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 11	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	vs Detroit	7:00 PM

STEVEN
STAMKOS

DAN HAMILTON-USA TODAY SPORTS

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

THN PREDICTION | 2ND IN ATLANTIC

AUSTON MATTHEWS

NICK TURCHIARO-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY CASEY IPPOLITO

THE MAPLE LEAFS have become a model franchise. A model for how to come *this close* but still fail. After leading its first-round series 3-2, Toronto lost Game 7 at home to the two-time reigning champions from Tampa Bay – and became the first team in NHL, MLB or NBA history to lose a winner-takes-all game in the opening round of the playoffs five years in a row. GM Kyle Dubas has often spoken about "narratives," and how they threaten clear judgment. That's among the reasons Dubas hasn't traded any of the "core four" forwards. But how can he deny what has become obvious? Cups are for closers, and the Leafs can't close.

The devastating loss severely dampened the most remarkable individual season in team history, too. Auston Matthews scored 60 goals in 73 games, taking home the Hart, Rocket Richard and Ted Lindsay Trophies. He is the best goal-scorer since prime Alex Ovechkin. But to a fan base hungry for playoff success, those accolades are streamers and confetti at a birthday party with no cake. It's unlikely Dubas survives another playoff failure, his future now depending on another roll of the dice in net. The acquisition of Matt Murray from Ottawa thus may be the most consequential move of Dubas' GM tenure.

>OFFENSE

Having the NHL's best goal-scorer – a 25-year-old with near goal-a-game potential – is a great place to start, especially considering Matthews may still improve and eclipse 60. Mitch Marner also reached new heights last season, hitting career highs in goals (35) and points (97). He shed the "pure passer" label and took a step forward in the playoffs after previous dud post-season performances. And the superstar top-line duo is well insulated: William Nylander joined the career-high extravaganza with bests of 34 goals and 80 points, while John Tavares did his part, adding 76 points. Michael Bunting and Alex Kerfoot, who combined for 114 points, round out the top six.

Skillful wingers Ilya Mikheyev and Ondrej Kase signed elsewhere, leaving Pierre Engvall, David Kampf and newcomer Calle Jarnkrok to lead the bottom-six forwards offensively. The top two lines will score enough to earn a high seed, but the bottom six must add reliable secondary scoring. The revolving door of depth forwards must produce a pleasant surprise or two to minimize the need for an expensive trade-deadline acquisition.

>DEFENSE

Toronto's team defense improved in 2021-22, with the Leafs allowing the ninth-fewest shots, compensating for the club's .900 save percentage. A more committed, cohesive style brought Toronto to the precipice of knock-

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD	54-21-7 (115 pts)
OVERTIME	6-6
SHOOTOUT	3-1
OVERALL	4th
OFFENSE	3.80 GPG (2nd)
DEFENSE	3.07 GAA (19th)
POWER PLAY	27.3% (1st)
PENALTY KILL	82.1% (8th)
CORSI FOR/60	60.80 (6th)
CORSI AGAINST/60	52.73 (8th)
ICE TIME LEAD (F)	M. Marner (20:53)
ICE TIME LEAD (D)	M. Rielly (23:44)

FAST FACTS

COACH	Sheldon Keefe
GM	Kyle Dubas
ARENA	Scotiabank Arena
CAPACITY	19,800
AHL AFFILIATE	Toronto Marlies
ECHL AFFILIATE	Newfoundland Growlers
PLAYOFF RECORD	14-19 (since 2018)

ing off Tampa Bay. Toronto has the advantage of continuity as seven of the club's top eight blueliners are returnees. The unquestioned No. 1 is Morgan Rielly, who had 68 points and led the power play. T.J. Brodie and Jake Muzzin will likely form the second pair, while any of the next six D-men could find a spot beside Rielly in the top four.

Former Norris Trophy winner Mark Giordano was a great addition after coming over in March, and he re-upped for two years at $800,000 per season. He'll be a veteran staple. With Ilya Lyubushkin gone, Timothy Liljegren is a candidate to step up. Justin Holl regressed last season but could battle Liljegren for those prime right-side minutes.

MITCH MARNER

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

>GOALTENDING

After looking like the answer early on, Jack Campbell sputtered in the second half, culminating in a .897 save percentage against Tampa Bay in Round 1. Petr Mrazek, meant to push Campbell as a potential 1A, was a flop. So it's a new reclamation tandem: Murray and Ilya Samsonov. After winning Cups in 2016 and '17, Murray was mostly mediocre – or injured – over the next three seasons with Pittsburgh before being dealt to Ottawa. There, he played 47 total games across two forgettable seasons. Ottawa sent along draft picks and retained 25 percent of Murray's cap hit to unload him. Dubas also elected to replace longstanding goaltending coach Steve Briere with former NHLer Curtis Sanford.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

The power play finished first in the NHL, thanks in no small part to the gravity of Matthews. Rielly was the unchallenged QB, collecting a team-leading 21 PP assists. The key this season will be creating additional looks with the man advantage – the first unit can become predictable. Defensive ace Kampf anchored the third line, provided more offense than expected and led Leafs forwards in PK time, helping them to eighth on the kill. Kerfoot and Marner were also effective, with Brodie and Holl as primary 'D.'

>INTANGIBLES

After its epic collapse against Montreal in the 2021 playoffs, Toronto fought back with its best regular season ever. Again, there's nothing to prove until the spring, but the core has shown an ability to pile up wins en route to scheduled first-round exits. Eventually, they have to win a series.

>ROOKIES

He's no longer rookie-eligible, but Nick Robertson, 21, heads the prospect pool. While the hype has dimmed somewhat after peaking when he made his NHL debut in the playoffs at 18, he has a shot at a roster spot. He had 28 points in 28 AHL games after returning from a severe leg injury last season. Matthew Knies, a 6-foot-2 left winger who is both skilled and mobile, scored a point per game in his freshman NCAA season at Minnesota. He'll play his sophomore season there and intends on joining the Leafs in the spring.

>X-FACTOR

It's goaltending. The roster is too talented to free fall or even be a bubble team. Murray is tasked with regaining his former championship form for a playoff push.

>THE BRASS

Echoing his GM's stay-the-course sentiments, president Brendan Shanahan has cited his turn-of-the-millennium Detroit teams as a template for avoiding reactive roster moves. Matthews can sign an extension as soon as next summer. It's easier to imagine him re-upping if there's playoff progress. Surely, he'll be offered a record-breaking pact the day he becomes eligible. Front-office shuffling saw Dubas elevate Hayley Wickenheiser, Ryan Hardy and Darryl Metcalf to assistant GM roles.

CUP ODDS

15/1

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Michael Bunting	1. Auston Matthews	1. Mitch Marner
2. Alexander Kerfoot	2. John Tavares	2. William Nylander
3. Pierre Engvall	3. David Kampf	3. Calle Jarnkrok
4. Nick Robertson	4. Adam Gaudette	4. Nicolas Aube-Kubel
5. Kyle Clifford	5. Nick Abruzzese	5. Wayne Simmonds

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Morgan Rielly	6. Justin Holl	1. Matt Murray
2. T.J. Brodie	7. Rasmus Sandin	2. Ilya Samsonov
3. Jake Muzzin	8. Jordie Benn	3. Erik Kallgren
4. Mark Giordano	9. Victor Mete	✚ INJURED
5. Timothy Liljegren	10. Carl Dahlstrom	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Jack Campbell, G; Ilya Mikheyev, LW; Ondrej Kase, RW; Ilya Lyubushkin, D; Jason Spezza, C; Colin Blackwell, RW; Petr Mrazek, G

TOPI NIEMELA

FUTURE WATCH

THE LEAFS HAVE A type lately: smaller, smart skill guys (bonus if they played for USHL Chicago). Toronto fans are still waiting on Nick Robertson, but soon the focus will shift to Rodion Amirov and Roni Hirvonen. The exception to the rule is power forward Matthew Knies, who was excellent as a freshman with Minnesota and has a big spotlight this season. On the back end, Topi Niemela has all the traits of a Miro Heiskanen-style blueliner.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Topi Niemela, D

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Karpat (Fin.)

Right-shot with top-four upside is rarely caught out of position. Likely AHL bound by 2023-24.

Acquired 64th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

2. Rodion Amirov, LW

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Ufa (KHL)

Elite skater can skitter past defenders. Battling a brain tumor after February diagnosis.

Acquired 15th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

3. Matthew Knies, LW

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Minnesota (Big Ten)

Polarizing pick impressed with big freshman season. Played at Olympics for USA.

Acquired 57th overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

4. Nick Robertson, LW

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Toronto (AHL)

Injuries were challenging but standout scorer has great release. Brother of Stars' Jason.

Acquired 53rd overall, 2019 **NHL** '22-23

5. Nick Abruzzese, C

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Harvard (ECAC)

Added penalty killing to game and commitment to all zones will aid NHL ability.

Acquired 124th overall, 2019 **NHL** '23-24

6. Roni Hirvonen, C

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** HIFK (Fin.)

Versatile pivot will play top-six or grind-line minutes with same fire. Career year in Finland.

Acquired 59th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

7. Fraser Minten, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Kamloops (WHL)

Embraces life as a shutdown center against top lines. Not teeming with offensive upside.

Acquired 38th overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

8. Alex Steeves, C

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Toronto (AHL)

Excellent 23-goal rookie performance in AHL. Play earned him three-game look with Leafs.

Acquired Free agent, March 2021 **NHL** '23-24

9. Pontus Holmberg, LW

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Vaxjo (Swe.)

Speedster has been productive everywhere he's played. Two points for Sweden at Olympics.

Acquired 156th overall, 2018 **NHL** '23-24

10. Joseph Woll, G

Age 24 **2021-22 Team** Toronto (AHL)

Mixes technique with athleticism but still developing. Fighting depth-chart position right now.

Acquired 62nd overall, 2016 **NHL** '25-26

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Artur Akhtyamov	20	Kazan (Rus2)	38	9	17	9	2.69	.912
Dennis Hildeby	21	Farjestad (Swe Jr.)	12	6	5	0	2.80	.931
Erik Kallgren	25	Toronto (AHL)	26	15	8	1	3.02	.904
Matt Murray	28	Ottawa	20	5	12	2	3.05	.906
Vyacheslav Peksa	20	Kazan (Rus Jr.)	56	30	17	8	1.79	.936
Ilya Samsonov	25	Washington	44	23	12	5	3.02	.896
Joseph Woll	24	Toronto (AHL)	15	6	7	0	3.36	.907

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Jordie Benn	35	Winnipeg	39	1	7	8	10
T.J. Brodie	32	Toronto	82	4	24	28	34
Carl Dahlstrom	27	Toronto (AHL)	49	0	14	14	10
John Fusco	21	Harvard (ECAC)	26	1	1	2	8
Mark Giordano	38	Cgy/Tor	75	8	27	35	10
Justin Holl	30	Toronto	69	3	20	23	41
Mac Hollowell	24	Toronto (AHL)	45	5	21	26	44
Mikko Kokkonen	20	Pelicans (Fin)	58	1	14	15	20
Mike Koster	21	Minnesota (NCHC)	36	3	11	14	10
Filip Kral	22	Toronto (AHL)	58	3	18	21	24
Timothy Liljegren	23	Toronto	61	5	18	23	14
Kalle Loponen	21	KooKoo (Fin)	38	1	3	4	12
Victor Mete	24	Ottawa	37	0	7	7	4
Jake Muzzin	33	Toronto	47	3	11	14	16
Topi Niemela	20	Karpat (Fin)	48	10	22	32	20
Ryan O'Connell	23	Ohio St. (Big10)	30	0	10	10	10
Morgan Rielly	29	Toronto	82	10	58	68	40
Axel Rindell	22	Karpat (Fin)	26	1	11	12	4
Rasmus Sandin	22	Toronto	51	5	11	16	4
William Villeneuve	20	Saint John (QMJHL)	64	8	48	56	28

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Mikhail Abramov	21	Toronto (AHL)	66	7	21	28	20
Nicholas Abruzzese	23	Harvard (ECAC)	28	9	24	33	8
Rodion Amirov	20	Ufa (KHL)	10	1	2	3	0
Joey Anderson	24	Toronto (AHL)	56	26	16	42	19
Nicolas Aube-Kube	26	Phi/Col	74	11	12	23	41
Vladimir Bobylev	25	Togliatti (Rus2)	51	7	10	17	37
Michael Bunting	27	Toronto	79	23	40	63	80
Nikolai Chebykin	25	D. Mos./S. Mos. (KHL)	34	8	3	11	12
Kyle Clifford	31	StL/Tor	23	1	3	4	31
Semyon Der-Arguchintsev	22	Toronto (AHL)	51	13	19	32	18
Curtis Douglas	22	Toronto (AHL)	67	13	21	34	86
Max Ellis	22	Notre Dame	39	16	12	28	14
Pierre Engvall	26	Toronto	78	15	20	35	30
Adam Gaudette	25	Chi/Ott	58	5	9	14	17
Pavel Gogolev	22	Toronto (AHL)	31	3	5	8	10
Nikita Grebyonkin	19	Magnitogorsk (Rus Jr.)	58	17	47	64	39
Fabrice Herzog	27	Zug (Swi)	38	15	11	26	18
Roni Hirvonen	20	HIFK (Fin)	46	9	17	26	24
Pontus Holmberg	23	Vaxjo (Swe)	46	11	30	41	44
Calle Jarnkrok	31	Sea/Cgy	66	12	18	30	6
David Kampf	27	Toronto	82	11	15	26	20
Vladislav Kara	24	Khanty-Mansiysk (Rus2)	30	17	11	28	25
Alexander Kerfoot	28	Toronto	82	13	38	51	20
Semyon Kizimov	22	Verkhnyaya Pyshma (Rus2)	48	13	14	27	38
Matthew Knies	19	Minnesota (NCHC)	33	15	18	33	31
Braeden Kressler	19	Flint (OHL)	28	5	11	16	18
Brandon Lisowsky	18	Saskatoon (WHL)	68	33	25	58	34
Denis Malgin	25	ZSC (Swi)	48	21	31	52	49
Mitch Marner	25	Toronto	72	35	62	97	16
Auston Matthews	25	Toronto	73	60	46	106	18
Bobby McMann	26	Toronto (AHL)	61	24	11	35	16
Joe Miller	20	Chicago (USHL)	62	23	45	68	20
Fraser Minten	18	Kamloops (WHL)	67	20	35	55	57
Veeti Miettinen	21	St. Cloud St. (NCHC)	37	10	13	23	0
Nicholas Moldenhauer	18	Chicago (USHL)	41	18	25	43	4
William Nylander	26	Toronto	81	34	46	80	16
Dmitry Ovchinnikov	20	Novosibirsk (Rus Jr.)	22	13	16	29	4
Nick Robertson	21	Toronto (AHL)	28	16	12	28	8
Wayne Simmonds	34	Toronto	72	5	11	16	96
Wyatt Schingoethe	20	W. Michigan (Big10)	20	0	0	0	12
Alex Steeves	22	Toronto (AHL)	58	23	23	46	32
John Tavares	32	Toronto	79	27	49	76	32
Ty Voit	19	Sarnia (OHL)	67	26	54	80	10
Ryan Tverberg	20	Connecticut (HE)	36	14	18	32	16

NIEMELA: MATT ZAMBONIN/HHOF-IIHF IMAGES

STATS | 2021-22

2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																			2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**	**P/GP**	**EVG**	**EVP**	**PPG**	**PPP**	**SHG**	**SHP**	**OTG**	**GWG**	**S**	**S%**	**TOI/GP**	**FOW%**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**
Auston Matthews	73	60	46	106	20	18	1.45	44	77	16	29	0	0	2	10	348	17.2	20:37	56.2	7	4	5	9	1	0
Mitchell Marner	72	35	62	97	23	16	1.35	26	68	6	25	3	4	1	5	224	15.6	20:53	55.6	7	2	6	8	3	2
William Nylander	81	34	46	80	-9	16	0.99	21	49	13	31	0	0	2	7	256	13.3	18:16	52.3	7	3	4	7	1	4
John Tavares	79	27	49	76	-8	32	0.96	17	50	10	26	0	0	0	3	237	11.4	18:04	60.6	7	3	3	6	0	2
Morgan Rielly	82	10	58	68	16	40	0.83	8	42	2	23	0	3	0	3	221	4.5	23:44	--	7	3	3	6	0	17
Michael Bunting	79	23	40	63	27	80	0.80	21	58	2	5	0	0	0	2	175	13.1	15:33	50.0	6	1	2	3	-1	4
Alexander Kerfoot	82	13	38	51	19	20	0.62	13	47	0	1	0	3	0	1	117	11.1	15:13	42.7	7	1	1	2	1	4
Pierre Engvall	78	15	20	35	13	30	0.45	12	29	1	3	2	3	0	3	154	9.7	13:17	42.0	7	0	3	3	0	14
Ilya Mikheyev	53	21	11	32	16	26	0.60	13	23	4	5	4	4	0	4	147	14.3	15:16	0.0	7	2	2	4	0	6
TJ Brodie	82	4	24	28	20	34	0.34	4	25	0	1	0	2	0	0	68	5.9	21:19	--	7	0	2	2	5	6
Ondrej Kase	50	14	13	27	4	14	0.54	9	18	4	8	1	1	0	2	119	11.8	13:59	18.2	7	0	3	3	-1	6
David Kampf	82	11	15	26	12	20	0.32	9	22	0	0	2	4	0	1	102	10.8	15:16	52.9	7	2	0	2	3	6
Jason Spezza	71	12	13	25	-3	26	0.35	9	15	3	10	0	0	0	1	97	12.4	10:45	52.9	5	0	1	1	-2	2
Timothy Liljegren	61	5	18	23	15	14	0.38	4	21	1	2	0	0	0	0	79	6.3	16:24	--	2	0	0	0	2	0
Justin Holl	69	3	20	23	14	41	0.33	2	20	0	0	1	3	0	1	64	4.7	20:12	--	5	0	1	1	2	6
Wayne Simmonds	72	5	11	16	-7	96	0.22	5	15	0	1	0	0	0	2	79	6.3	9:20	50.0	2	0	0	0	-1	14
Rasmus Sandin	51	5	11	16	9	4	0.31	5	13	0	3	0	0	0	3	46	10.9	16:58	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jake Muzzin	47	3	11	14	-6	16	0.30	3	13	0	0	0	1	0	0	75	4.0	20:44	--	7	2	1	3	4	2
Mark Giordano	20	2	10	12	12	10	0.60	2	8	0	4	0	0	1	1	28	7.1	19:12	--	7	0	2	2	0	6
Nick Ritchie	33	2	7	9	-6	23	0.27	1	5	1	4	0	0	0	0	52	3.9	12:00	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ilya Lyubushkin	31	2	4	6	4	25	0.19	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	9.5	16:28	--	7	0	1	1	-1	18
Travis Dermott	43	1	4	5	4	14	0.12	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	37	2.7	14:43	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Colin Blackwell	19	2	1	3	-1	10	0.16	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	12.5	10:48	51.8	7	1	1	2	-2	0
Kyle Clifford	23	1	2	3	-4	31	0.13	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	4.2	8:35	33.3	1	0	0	0	0	15
Carl Dahlstrom	3	0	2	2	2	2	0.67	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.0	13:39	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nicholas Robertson	10	1	0	1	-4	4	0.10	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	7.1	10:16	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nicholas Abruzzese	9	1	0	1	-1	2	0.11	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	12.5	10:13	28.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alex Steeves	3	0	1	1	-1	0	0.33	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	7:58	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alex Biega	2	0	0	0	-2	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	13:07	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Michael Amadio	3	0	0	0	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	9:10	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brett Seney	2	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	7:01	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Joey Anderson	5	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0.0	8:46	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kristians Rubins	3	0	0	0	-2	4	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.0	11:45	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kirill Semyonov	3	0	0	0	-2	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	10:02	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--

2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																	2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**SA**	**SVS**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**
Jack Campbell	49	47	31	9	6	1,430	1,307	123	.914	2.64	2795:24	5	0	7	7	3	4	203	182	21	.897	3.15	400:15	1	0
Petr Mrazek	20	18	12	6	0	520	462	58	.888	3.34	1042:07	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Erik Kallgren	14	12	8	4	1	385	342	43	.888	3.31	779:29	1	2	1	0	0	0	10	10	0	1.000	0	30:46	0	0
Joseph Woll	4	4	3	1	0	123	112	11	.911	2.75	239:54	1	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Michael Hutchinson	2	1	0	1	0	42	36	6	.857	4.57	78:43	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Wed, Oct 12	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 13	vs Washington	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 15	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 17	vs Arizona	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 20	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 24	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Thu, Oct 27	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sat, Oct 29	@ Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Sun, Oct 30	@ Anaheim	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 2	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 5	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 6	@ Carolina	5:00 PM
Tue, Nov 8	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 11	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 12	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 15	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 21	vs NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Wed, Nov 23	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 25	@ Minnesota	2:00 PM
Sat, Nov 26	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 28	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 30	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 3	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 6	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Thu, Dec 8	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 10	vs Calgary	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 13	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 15	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 17	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 20	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 22	vs Philadelphia	2:00 PM
Tue, Dec 27	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 29	@ Arizona	9:00 PM
Sat, Dec 31	@ Colorado	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 3	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 5	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 7	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 8	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Wed, Jan 11	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 12	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 14	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 17	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 19	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 23	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Wed, Jan 25	vs NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 27	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 29	vs Washington	5:00 PM
Wed, Feb 1	vs Boston	7:30 PM
Fri, Feb 10	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 11	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Wed, Feb 15	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 19	@ Chicago	6:00 PM
Tue, Feb 21	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 24	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 26	@ Seattle	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 1	@ Edmonton	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 2	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 4	@ Vancouver	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 7	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 13	vs Buffalo	7:30 PM
Wed, Mar 15	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 17	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 18	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 21	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Thu, Mar 23	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 26	@ Nashville	6:00 PM
Wed, Mar 29	vs Florida	7:30 PM
Sat, Apr 1	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 2	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 4	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 6	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 8	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Mon, Apr 10	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 11	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM

MORGAN
RIELLY

JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

VANCOUVER CANUCKS

THN PREDICTION | 5TH IN PACIFIC

THATCHER **DEMKO**

BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD	40-30-12 (.561)
OVERTIME	5-7
SHOOTOUT	3-5
OVERALL	18th
OFFENSE	3.00 GPG (18th)
DEFENSE	2.82 GAA (8th)
POWER PLAY	23.5% (9th)
PENALTY KILL	74.9% (30th)
CORSI FOR/60	56.15 (13th)
CORSI AGAINST/60	56.51 (20th)
ICE TIME LEAD (F)	J. Miller (21:05)
ICE TIME LEAD (D)	Q. Hughes (25:15)

BY BEN KUZMA

THE AFTERSHOCKS OF a hockey-operations earthquake that rocked the Canucks in early December were still being felt in the summer – and more tremors were expected. A sour 8-15-2 start to the 2021-22 season outraged ownership, which identified a lack of culture and sufficient standard of performance. It led to the Dec. 5 dismissals of GM Jim Benning, coach Travis Green and assistant Nolan Baumgartner. There would be other hockey-ops exits and hirings to send a signal that new president of hockey operations Jim Rutherford, GM Patrik Allvin and bench boss Bruce Boudreau would change the voice and direction. They were brought on board to win and reshape a roster in need of skill, speed, size, youth, grit and salary-cap flexibility.

Winning proved easier because Boudreau – the affable old-school players' coach – pushed all the right buttons. It resulted in seven straight wins to start his reign and a remarkable 32-15-10 run to capture the imagination of what could be for a disgruntled fan base.

>OFFENSE

J.T. Miller's career-best 99-point season placed him ninth in league scoring. He also tied for third in the NHL in power-play points (38) and was second on the Canucks in faceoff efficiency (54.1 percent). Miller also led in rampant speculation that the Canucks would move him at the trade deadline – or at the draft – for multiple assets. That didn't happen.

Elias Pettersson had four goals in his first 26 games. His body language and tone suggested a lost season, but spurts of 21 points in 15 games and 27 points in 26 games resulted in career highs in goals (32) and points (68). Quinn Hughes set franchise records for defensemen with 60 assists and 68 points. Bo Horvat had a career-high 31 goals, including a team-best 13 PP goals.

>DEFENSE

Rutherford grew tired of his defensemen not transitioning out of thier own zone effectively, putting pucks off the glass or desperately flipping them into the neutral zone. The blueliners also weren't enough of a deterrent to keep beleaguered starting goalie Thatcher Demko from often being in a shooting gallery.

FAST FACTS

COACH	Bruce Boudreau
GM	Patrik Allvin
ARENA	Rogers Arena
CAPACITY	18,910
AHL AFFILIATE	Abbotsford Canucks
ECHL AFFILIATE	N/A
PLAYOFF RECORD	10-7 (since 2018)

ELIAS PETTERSSON

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

Travis Hamonic was dealt to Ottawa and Travis Dermott was acquired from Toronto at the trade deadline to start the retool. Luke Schenn finished fourth overall in the league in hits. But Kyle Burroughs was slowed by injuries while Tucker Poolman was sidelined by repeated migraine headaches.

>GOALTENDING

Demko established career highs for games (64), wins (33) and goals-against average (2.72), but he played through discomfort in the final month of last season. The Canucks' most valuable player didn't suit up for the final three games due to a lower-body injury, but overall he took his game to another level. Spencer Martin vaulted from fifth in the organization to Demko's backup heading into this season by rejuvenating his career. He built on a 19-4-2 record in the AHL and then compiled a 3-0-3 mark, 1.74 GAA and .950 save percentage in the NHL to sell the Canucks on his future worth with a two-year deal.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

The Canucks were bleeding goals with a brutal penalty kill when Boudreau took over. His reasoning that the team's best players might be the best option resulted in an improvement from an historic league-low of 62.3-percent efficiency in late November to 80.3 percent over the final three months of the season. Pettersson and Horvat were a deadly PK duo by anticipating passes and wheeling away on numerous odd-man rushes and breakaways. And Hughes killed time by ragging pucks before sending the opposition back to regroup. The power play had more potential with prime personnel and finished ninth overall at 23.5 percent. Brock Boeser, Horvat and Pettersson combined for 34 PP goals. Miller finding Horvat in the bumper position was a go-to move, and Pettersson's accurate and heavy one-timer shots returned.

>INTANGIBLES

Miller is the elephant in the room. His output and favorable comparables could see him leap from $5.25 million in the final year of his deal to more than $8 million annually on a long-term contract. The Canucks countered by saying they don't have to make a decision on their best forward until a month before the 2023 trade deadline to ensure they get a reasonable return. They also said the right trade package might spring a deal sooner.

>ROOKIES

Winger Andrei Kuzmenko, 26, had 53 points in 45 KHL games last season and chose Vancouver over other NHL destinations as a highly coveted free agent. Defenseman Jack Rathbone, 23, had 40 points in 39 AHL games. His 1.03 points per game and 19 power-play assists were fifth among league defenders, and he was also named to the AHL all-rookie team.

CUP ODDS

41/1

>X-FACTOR

Rutherford needed to create salary-cap space but didn't have enough room to make a splashy signing in free agency. He still needs to bring in a proven right-shot defender to pair with Hughes and will likely need to swing a trade in order for that to happen. He did address concerns about the team's size, skill and bite up front by adding UFA forwards Ilya Mikheyev, Curtis Lazar and Dakota Joshua. Mikheyev, 27, broke out for 21 goals in 53 games with Toronto last season.

>THE BRASS

Boudreau enters the option year of his two-year deal with Mike Yeo and Trent Cull as his new assistants. Yeo has a history with Allvin, and he might get the bench if Boudreau stumbles out of the gate or isn't retained. Associate coach Brad Shaw left to join John Tortorella in Philadelphia. H

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Elias Pettersson	1. J.T. Miller	1. Brock Boeser
2. Conor Garland	2. Bo Horvat	2. Andrei Kuzmenko
3. Vasily Podkolzin	3. Jason Dickinson	3. Ilya Mikheyev
4. Tanner Pearson	4. Curtis Lazar	4. Nils Hoglander
5. Phil Di Giuseppe	5. Dakota Joshua	5. Will Lockwood

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Quinn Hughes	6. Tucker Poolman	1. Thatcher Demko
2. Oliver Ekman-Larsson	7. Kyle Burroughs	2. Spencer Martin
3. Tyler Myers	8. Jack Rathbone	3. Collin Delia
4. Luke Schenn	9. Filip Johansson	✚ INJURED
5. Travis Dermott	10. Christian Wolanin	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Jaroslav Halak, G; Brad Hunt, D; Juho Lammikko, LW; Matthew Highmore, LW

JONATHAN LEKKERIMAKI

ANDRE RINGUETTE/HHOF-IIHF IMAGES

FUTURE WATCH

NOT ONLY DID THE Canucks draft a kid whose favorite player is Elias Pettersson (first-round scoring sensation Jonathan Lekkerimaki), but they also drafted another player named Elias Pettersson in 2022 – though this one is a defenseman. With Vasily Podkolzin and Nils Hoglander in the NHL, there is a gap in the pipeline, though defenseman Jack Rathbone holds intrigue and center Danila Klimovich survived a teen season in the AHL.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Jonathan Lekkerimaki, RW

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Djurgarden Jr. (Swe.)
Quintessential triggerman knows how to find space. Not afraid to go to tough areas, either.
Acquired 15th overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

2. Jack Rathbone, D

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Abbotsford (AHL)
Can zip around the ice and be a one-man breakout. Defensive game beginning to solidify.
Acquired 95th overall, 2017 **NHL** '23-24

3. Danila Klimovich, C

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Abbotsford (AHL)
Getting valuable AHL reps has helped him adjust to North American game. Still a project.
Acquired 41st overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

4. Michael DiPietro, G

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Abbotsford (AHL)
Mediocre AHL numbers, but Canucks have liked his development and admired his dedication.
Acquired 64th overall, 2017 **NHL** '24-25

5. Joni Jurmo, D

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Jukurit (Fin.)
Has physical gifts but also difficulty staying in lineup. Lots to love about 6-foot-4 frame.
Acquired 82nd overall, 2020 **NHL** '25-26

6. Elias Pettersson, D

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Orebro Jr. (Swe.)
Physical and competitive defender. An efficient skater with good gap control.
Acquired 80th overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

7. Will Lockwood, RW

Age 24 **2021-22 Team** Abbotsford (AHL)
Will challenge for bottom-six role with smash-mouth style. A skilled penalty-killer, too.
Acquired 64th overall, 2016 **NHL** '22-23

8. Jett Woo, D

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Abbotsford (AHL)
Making necessary improvements, fine-tuning game. Wrist injury in December hurt progress.
Acquired 37th overall, 2018 **NHL** '23-24

9. Aidan McDonough, LW

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Northeastern (HE)
Nose for the net and willing to take hits to make plays. Skating and defense need work.
Acquired 195th overall, 2019 **NHL** '24-25

10. Daimon Gardner, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Warroad (USHS)
Power center strong in middle lanes. Bound for BCHL this season, Clarkson in 2023-24.
Acquired 112nd overall, 2022 **NHL** '27-28

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Collin Delia	28	Rockford (AHL)	22	11	9	3	3.04	.905
Thatcher Demko	26	Vancouver	64	33	22	7	2.75	.915
Michael DiPietro	23	Abbotsford (AHL)	34	15	13	5	2.95	.901
Aku Koskenvuo	19	HIFK (Fin Jr.)	27	13	10	0	2.79	.897
Spencer Martin	27	Abbotsford (AHL)	25	19	4	2	2.43	.914
Arturs Silovs	21	Abbotsford (AHL)	10	3	6	0	3.10	.888
Matthew Thiessen	22	Maine (HE)	12	1	8	3	3.11	.888
Ty Young	18	Prince George (WHL)	23	6	9	3	3.50	.899

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Guillaume Brisebois	25	Abbotsford (AHL)	26	2	5	7	18
Kyle Burroughs	27	Vancouver	42	1	4	5	39
Travis Dermott	25	Tor/Van	60	2	5	7	14
Jackson Dorrington	18	Des Moines (USHL)	41	3	8	11	51
Oliver Ekman-Larsson	31	Vancouver	79	5	24	29	52
Hugo Gabrielson	19	Vastervik (Swe2)	40	0	3	3	6
Quinn Hughes	22	Vancouver	76	8	60	68	28
Filip Johansson	22	Frolunda (Swe)	47	3	8	11	8
Joni Jurmo	20	Jukurit (Fin)	50	2	8	10	18
Noah Juulsen	25	Abbotsford (AHL)	50	3	13	16	63
Wyatt Kalynuk	25	Rockford (AHL)	52	7	20	27	55
Brady Keeper	26	Syracuse (AHL)	11	2	1	3	12
Kirill Kudryavtsev	18	Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)	68	5	34	39	10
Tyler Myers	32	Vancouver	82	1	17	18	66
Jonathan Myrenberg	19	Linkoping (Swe Jr.)	35	8	23	31	28
Viktor Persson	20	Brynas (Swe Jr.)	65	4	25	29	37
Elias Pettersson	18	Orebro (Swe Jr.)	37	10	8	18	38
Tucker Poolman	29	Vancouver	40	1	2	3	12
Jack Rathbone	23	Abbotsford (AHL)	39	10	30	40	15
Luke Schenn	32	Vancouver	66	5	12	17	61
Jacob Truscott	20	Michigan (Big10)	40	2	15	17	31
Christian Wolanin	27	Ontario (AHL)	37	1	17	18	22
Jett Woo	22	Abbotsford (AHL)	42	2	6	8	35

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Nils Aman	22	Leksand (Swe)	51	6	8	14	8
Arshdeep Bains	21	Red Deer (WHL)	68	43	69	112	56
Brock Boeser	25	Vancouver	71	23	23	46	20
Arvid Costmar	21	Linkoping (Swe)	48	3	4	7	16
Jason Dickinson	27	Vancouver	62	5	6	11	19
Phil Di Giuseppe	28	Abbotsford (AHL)	42	12	24	36	37
Justin Dowling	32	Vancouver	22	2	2	4	2
Sheldon Dries	28	Abbotsford (AHL)	54	35	27	62	20
Micheal Ferland	30	Vancouver	INJURED - DID NOT PLAY				
Carson Focht	22	Abbotsford (AHL)	41	3	7	10	48
Lucas Forsell	19	Farjestad (Swe Jr.)	35	15	19	34	32
Daimon Gardner	18	Warroad (High-MN)	30	45	38	83	18
Conor Garland	26	Vancouver	77	19	33	52	36
Dakota Joshua	26	Springfield (AHL)	35	9	11	20	23
Andrei Kuzmenko	26	St. Petersburg (KHL)	45	20	33	53	10
Nils Hoglander	21	Vancouver	60	10	8	18	24
Bo Horvat	27	Vancouver	70	31	21	52	40
Lukas Jasek	25	Pelicans (Fin)	54	13	38	51	30
Jackson Kunz	20	N. Dakota (NCHC)	31	3	3	6	31
Curtis Lazar	27	Boston	70	8	8	16	16
Connor Lockhart	19	Erie (OHL)	64	23	25	48	22
Will Lockwood	24	Abbotsford (AHL)	46	9	16	25	38
Linus Karlsson	22	Skelleftea (Swe)	52	26	20	46	18
Danila Klimovich	19	Abbotsford (AHL)	62	8	10	18	33
Jonathan Lekkerimaki	18	Djurgarden (Swe Jr.)	26	20	15	35	8
Jack Malone	21	Cornell (ECAC)	32	8	12	20	26
Artyom Manukyan	24	Vladivostok (KHL)	22	1	1	2	0
J.T. Miller	29	Vancouver	80	32	67	99	47
Ilya Mikheyev	27	Toronto	53	21	11	32	26
Aidan McDonough	22	Northeastern (HE)	38	25	14	39	44
Tanner Pearson	30	Vancouver	68	14	20	34	30
Elias Pettersson	23	Vancouver	80	32	36	68	12
Karel Plasek	22	Abbotsford (AHL)	8	0	0	0	2
Vasily Podkolzin	21	Vancouver	79	14	12	26	26
John Stevens	28	Abbotsford (AHL)	68	19	24	43	72
Dmitry Zlodeyev	20	D. Mos./S. Mos. (Rus Jr.)	28	20	21	41	31
Dmitry Zhukenov	25	Verkhnyaya Pyshma (Rus2)	20	2	6	8	2

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																			2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	P/GP	EVG	EVP	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	OTG	GWG	S	S%	TOI/GP	FOW%	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM
J.T. Miller	80	32	67	99	15	47	1.24	24	59	8	38	0	2	3	6	206	15.5	21:05	54.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Elias Pettersson	80	32	36	68	1	12	0.85	20	39	10	27	2	2	0	3	192	16.7	18:36	44.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Quinn Hughes	76	8	60	68	10	28	0.89	8	35	0	31	0	2	1	1	150	5.3	25:15	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Bo Horvat	70	31	21	52	3	40	0.74	17	32	13	19	1	1	0	4	194	16.0	19:31	57.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Conor Garland	77	19	33	52	18	36	0.68	18	49	1	3	0	0	0	3	203	9.4	16:24	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brock Boeser	71	23	23	46	-5	20	0.65	12	28	11	17	0	1	1	6	195	11.8	18:36	50.9	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tanner Pearson	68	14	20	34	9	30	0.50	13	31	1	3	0	0	0	2	159	8.8	16:03	35.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Oliver Ekman-Larsson	79	5	24	29	5	52	0.37	2	19	3	10	0	0	0	1	168	3.0	22:19	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Vasily Podkolzin	79	14	12	26	7	26	0.33	12	23	2	3	0	0	0	3	115	12.2	12:48	42.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alex Chiasson	67	13	9	22	4	24	0.33	7	12	6	10	0	0	0	2	98	13.3	11:37	43.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nils Hoglander	60	10	8	18	-6	24	0.30	9	15	1	3	0	0	0	0	132	7.6	13:05	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tyler Myers	82	1	17	18	15	66	0.22	1	17	0	1	0	0	0	0	128	0.8	21:59	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Luke Schenn	66	5	12	17	15	61	0.26	4	16	0	0	1	1	0	1	78	6.4	17:13	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brad Hunt	50	3	14	17	-3	12	0.34	3	15	0	2	0	0	0	0	67	4.5	15:15	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tyler Motte	49	7	8	15	3	22	0.31	6	14	0	0	1	1	0	1	83	8.4	14:17	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Juho Lammikko	75	7	8	15	-6	14	0.20	7	15	0	0	0	0	0	2	67	10.5	12:17	51.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Matthew Highmore	46	5	7	12	1	14	0.26	4	11	1	1	0	0	0	0	61	8.2	12:42	37.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jason Dickinson	62	5	6	11	-1	19	0.18	5	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	66	7.6	13:03	42.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Travis Hamonic	24	3	4	7	1	6	0.29	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	5.9	18:22	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kyle Burroughs	42	1	4	5	-3	39	0.12	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	2.6	12:56	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brad Richardson	17	2	2	4	1	8	0.24	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	12	16.7	10:53	57.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Justin Dowling	22	2	2	4	-3	2	0.18	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	11.8	9:35	52.5	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sheldon Dries	11	2	1	3	-3	0	0.27	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	17	11.8	10:18	33.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tucker Poolman	40	1	2	3	2	12	0.08	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	2.1	17:00	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Travis Dermott	17	1	1	2	5	0	0.12	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	11.1	16:54	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nic Petan	18	0	2	2	-2	4	0.11	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	21	0.0	10:17	30.4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Noah Juulsen	8	0	2	2	-4	0	0.25	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.0	14:41	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Justin Bailey	14	0	0	0	-5	6	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0.0	9:05	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Madison Bowey	2	0	0	0	-3	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	15:44	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Guillaume Brisebois	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	4:13	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
William Lockwood	13	0	0	0	-3	9	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0.0	11:20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jack Rathbone	9	0	0	0	-5	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0.0	13:50	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sheldon Rempal	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0	9:11	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON															2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	GP	GS	W	L	OT	SA	SVS	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO	G	A	P	PIM	GP	GS	W	L	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO
Thatcher Demko	64	61	33	22	7	1,967	1,799	168	.915	2.72	3700:39	1	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jaroslav Halak	17	14	4	7	2	400	361	39	.903	2.94	796:39	0	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Spencer Martin	6	6	3	0	3	218	207	11	.950	1.74	378:21	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Michael Dipietro	1	1	0	1	0	17	14	3	.824	3.14	57:21	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Wed, Oct 12	@ Edmonton	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 15	@ Philadelphia	4:00 PM
Mon, Oct 17	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Tue, Oct 18	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 20	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	vs Buffalo	10:00 PM
Mon, Oct 24	vs Carolina	10:30 PM
Thu, Oct 27	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Fri, Oct 28	vs Pittsburgh	10:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	vs New Jersey	10:00 PM
Thu, Nov 3	vs Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 5	vs Nashville	10:00 PM
Tue, Nov 8	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 9	@ Montreal	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 12	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 13	@ Boston	6:00 PM
Tue, Nov 15	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 18	vs Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Mon, Nov 21	vs Vegas	10:30 PM
Wed, Nov 23	@ Colorado	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 26	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sun, Nov 27	@ San Jose	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 29	vs Washington	10:00 PM
Thu, Dec 1	vs Florida	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 3	vs Arizona	10:00 PM
Mon, Dec 5	vs Montreal	10:30 PM
Wed, Dec 7	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sat, Dec 10	vs Minnesota	10:00 PM
Wed, Dec 14	@ Calgary	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 17	vs Winnipeg	10:00 PM
Mon, Dec 19	vs St. Louis	10:30 PM
Thu, Dec 22	vs Seattle	10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 23	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Tue, Dec 27	vs San Jose	10:00 PM
Thu, Dec 29	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 31	@ Calgary	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 3	vs NY Islanders	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 5	vs Colorado	10:00 PM
Sun, Jan 8	@ Winnipeg	3:00 PM
Tue, Jan 10	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 12	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 14	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 15	@ Carolina	5:00 PM
Wed, Jan 18	vs Tampa Bay	10:00 PM
Fri, Jan 20	vs Colorado	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 24	vs Chicago	10:00 PM
Wed, Jan 25	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Fri, Jan 27	vs Columbus	10:00 PM
Mon, Feb 6	@ New Jersey	7:30 PM
Wed, Feb 8	@ NY Rangers	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 9	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Sat, Feb 11	@ Detroit	12:00 PM
Mon, Feb 13	vs Detroit	10:00 PM
Wed, Feb 15	vs NY Rangers	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	vs Philadelphia	10:00 PM
Tue, Feb 21	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 23	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 25	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 27	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Thu, Mar 2	vs Minnesota	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 4	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 6	vs Nashville	10:30 PM
Wed, Mar 8	vs Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	vs Ottawa	10:00 PM
Tue, Mar 14	vs Dallas	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 16	@ Arizona	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 18	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 19	@ Anaheim	8:00 PM
Tue, Mar 21	vs Vegas	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 23	vs San Jose	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	@ Dallas	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 26	@ Chicago	6:00 PM
Tue, Mar 28	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Fri, Mar 31	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Sun, Apr 2	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Tue, Apr 4	vs Seattle	10:00 PM
Thu, Apr 6	vs Chicago	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 8	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Mon, Apr 10	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Tue, Apr 11	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	@ Arizona	10:00 PM

QUINN HUGHES

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS

THN PREDICTION | 3RD IN PACIFIC

ALEX PIETRANGELO

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY SCOTT ZERR

DID HOCKEY FIND A passionate fan base in the Nevada desert? The answer is a resounding yes (see: Stanley Cup final in Year 1). But that same fan base is a little miffed heading into 2022-23 because their beloved Golden Knights aren't what they used to be. Understandably, things can change quickly in professional sports, but the followers in the Fortress aren't sure what to make of this team anymore. There's little left of the 'Golden Misfits,' which was inevitable, but every move has seemingly made the team go backward instead of forward. They've gone from Cup challenger to contender to mortgaging everything in an attempt to find hockey's holy grail.

Management's continual pursuit of shiny, expensive pieces has gone from panning out (see: Mark Stone) to simply panned (see: Jack Eichel). There's no doubt Eichel is an elite player, and, if healthy, he is the star center the Golden Knights have longed for. But the overall asset management and having to bail on past moves (see: Max Pacioretty, etc.) just to be cap-compliant has left many wondering if the Knights are being reckless. It is Vegas, after all, so it only makes sense that a little gambling is in order. The concern, though, is that the moves haven't resulted in a jackpot yet, and the odds of that happening seem to be slipping away.

>OFFENSE

It's not fair to say the offense starts and ends with $10-million-man Eichel, but his salary and the bounty the team traded for him bring expectations. If he's healthy and finds a groove, optimally alongside Stone, who also needs a resurgence to good health, the Knights have some notable pop at the top. Chandler Stephenson had a breakout season and could find himself still centering a top-six line or moving to the left wing beside Eichel.

Jonathan Marchessault had his best year since the birth of the franchise, but fellow expansion-draftees Reilly Smith and William Karlsson both missed time due to injuries and have to get back to their higher level of production. That rings especially true with proven producers Pacioretty and Evgenii Dadonov out of the picture.

>DEFENSE

The Golden Knights should undoubtedly have one of the best defensive units in the West, anchored by Alex Pi-

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD
43-31-8 (.573)

OVERTIME
5-4

SHOOTOUT
4-4

OVERALL
17th

OFFENSE
3.20 GPG (12th)

DEFENSE
2.98 GAA (15th)

POWER PLAY
18.4% (25th)

PENALTY KILL
77.4% (21st)

CORSI FOR/60
61.04 (5th)

CORSI AGAINST/60
55.08 (16th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
J. Eichel (19:24)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
A. Pietrangelo (24:39)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Bruce Cassidy

GM
Kelly McCrimmon

ARENA
T-Mobile Arena

CAPACITY
17,500

AHL AFFILIATE
Henderson
Silver Knights

ECHL AFFILIATE
Savannah Ghost Pirates

PLAYOFF RECORD
35-28 (since 2018)

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

etrangelo, Shea Theodore and Alec Martinez. That trio excels at moving the puck and factoring in on the rush, but the blueline group as a whole, which includes one of the last original members of the ‘Misfits’ in Brayden McNabb, needs to tighten things up in its own end. Nic Hague and Zach Whitecloud make up the final pairing.

It’s not the biggest or meanest group, so they need to use their wits and make the smart move over riskier options. While the ‘D’ as a whole needs to dig a little deeper behind its own blueline, a key save or two from whomever is between the pipes would go a long way into making life a little easier for the defensemen.

>GOALTENDING

It was announced in mid-August that Robin Lehner would miss the entire season after undergoing hip surgery. It’s unlikely the team will ride the duo of Logan Thompson (10-5-3, .914 save percentage, 2.68 goals-against average) and Laurent Brossoit (10-9-3, .895 SP, 2.90 GAA), neither of whom have played more than 25 games in a season nor showed they’re capable of carrying even a 1B load. Look for Vegas to acquire a new starter.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

From their playoff elimination in 2020-21 to missing the post-season entirely last year, the Knights’ power play has been underwhelming – and that was when it had both Pacioretty and Dadonov. Here’s a major area where Eichel will need to prove his value. The Knights have two talented D-men in Pietrangelo and Theodore to set up shop at the point, and a healthy Stone could be the critical cog to finding some success. The Golden Knights will need better goaltending as the last line of defense on the penalty kill. Karlsson may see more time on the PK unit with the departure of Mattias Janmark.

>INTANGIBLES

The Golden Knights’ brass has bet heavily on a win-now philosophy, culminating in the everything-but-the-kitchen-sink trade for Eichel. It’s a big burden on Eichel considering his acquisition and subsequent moves resulted in the Golden Knights parting with four quality players and a first-round pick. And because of the resulting cap crunch, the Knights need some cheaper, blossoming talent to fill key roles. Nicolas Roy has made the jump, and bigger opportunities await young forwards Jake Leschyshyn, Jonas Rondbjerg and Keegan Kolesar.

>ROOKIES

All eyes at training camp will be on 2020 first-rounder Brendan Brisson, one of the very few top-end prospects left in Vegas’ system. Brisson finished last season with AHL Henderson after a strong sophomore year at the University of Michigan and playing for Team USA at the Olympics. And keep watch on three Russian prospects as well – defenseman Daniil Miromanov and forwards Ivan Morozov and Pavel Dorofeyev.

CUP ODDS

20/1

>X-FACTOR

There are a lot of unknowns in play for the Golden Knights, but the overall sentiment is that this team must make a huge breakthrough this season. Anything less than a spot in the conference final will be considered another letdown, which is something that would be greeted with serious consternation.

>THE BRASS

It’s not just the hot, hot summer heat that’s warming the seats under team president George McPhee and GM Kelly McCrimmon. They’ve swapped and spent their way into this situation and, to be blunt, it better work out. Any kind of stumbling start and owner Bill Foley is going to be asking a lot of questions. H

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Jonathan Marchessault	1. Jack Eichel	1. Mark Stone
2. Brett Howden	2. Chandler Stephenson	2. Reilly Smith
3. William Carrier	3. William Karlsson	3. Nicolas Roy
4. Keegan Kolesar	4. Nolan Patrick ✚	4. Michael Amadio
5. Brendan Brisson	5. Jake Leschyshyn	5. Jonas Rondbjerg
DEFENSE		**GOALIE**
1. Alex Pietrangelo	6. Zach Whitecloud	1. Laurent Brossoit
2. Shea Theodore	7. Ben Hutton	2. Logan Thompson
3. Alec Martinez	8. Kaedan Korczak	3. Michael Hutchinson
4. Brayden McNabb	9. Daniil Miromanov	✚ INJURED
5. Nic Hague	10. Zack Hayes	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Max Pacioretty, LW; Evgenii Dadonov, RW; Mattias Janmark, LW; Dylan Coghlan, D

BRENDAN
BRISSON

FUTURE WATCH

GOING FOR IT SINCE Year 1 has meant most Golden Knights draft picks with NHL experience have gotten it on other teams, Nic Hague being an exception. A cap crunch may open the door for younger talent on entry-level (i.e. cheap) contracts, which bodes well for the likes of Pavel Dorofeyev and Brendan Brisson. Lukas Cormier is an offensive whiz on defense, while the top selection in 2022 was big and smart Matyas Sapovaliv, the second-rounder from Saginaw.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Brendan Brisson, C

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Michigan (Big Ten)
Elite NCAA scorer and future top-sixer proved readiness in AHL. Two goals at Olympics.
Acquired 29th overall, 2020 **NHL** '23-24

2. Zach Dean, C

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Gatineau (QMJHL)
Up-tempo skater creates havoc on the attack. Other elements of his game need to catch up.
Acquired 30th overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

3. Lukas Cormier, D

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Charlottetown (QMJHL)
Creates quick breakouts with vision and has power-play QB upside. Own-zone improving.
Acquired 68th overall, 2020 **NHL** '24-25

4. Daniil Chayka, D

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Guelph (OHL)
Chaotic draft year saw stock fall, but he settled nicely in Guelph last year. Great reach and size.
Acquired 38th overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

5. Pavel Dorofeyev, LW

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Henderson (AHL)
Great AHL performance has Vegas confident in upside. Got two-game look in NHL.
Acquired 79th overall, 2019 **NHL** '23-24

6. Ivan Morozov, C

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** St. Petersburg (KHL)
Modest output in Russia. Transition to AHL will aid adjustment to small-ice game.
Acquired 61st overall, 2018 **NHL** '24-25

7. Matyas Sapovaliv, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Saginaw (OHL)
A willing role player with underlying creativity on the puck. Adjusted well to life in the OHL.
Acquired 48th overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

8. Jordan Gustafson, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Seattle (OHL)
Broad skill set, but he's not a stud at any one thing. Always ready to pounce on a mistake.
Acquired 79th overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

9. Kaedan Korczak, D

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Henderson (AHL)
At his best when playing safe, shutdown game. Will net a few points but not his focal point.
Acquired 41st overall, 2019 **NHL** '23-24

10. Jackson Hallum, C

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Dubuque (USHL)
Blink-and-miss-him speed with a dash of scoring touch. Heading to NCAA Michigan.
Acquired 91st overall, 2020 **NHL** '25-26

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Laurent Brossoit	29	Vegas	24	10	9	3	2.90	.895
Michael Hutchinson	32	Toronto (AHL)	28	11	10	5	3.23	.899
Robin Lehner	31	Vegas	44	23	17	2	2.83	.907
Carl Lindbom	19	Djurgarden (Swe Jr.)	19	13	6	0	2.24	.913
Jiri Patera	23	Henderson (AHL)	22	10	11	1	2.76	.910
Isaiah Saville	22	Neb.-Omaha (NCHC)	30	16	14	0	2.52	.907
Logan Thompson	25	Henderson (AHL)	26	13	9	5	2.77	.920
Jesper Vikman	20	Vancouver (WHL)	35	17	15	2	3.05	.903
Cameron Whitehead	19	Lincoln (USHL)	31	16	8	4	3.19	.892

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Layton Ahac	21	Henderson (AHL)	32	0	6	6	8
Daniil Chayka	19	Guelph (OHL)	53	7	32	39	22
Artur Cholach	19	Barrie (OHL)	56	1	12	13	22
Connor Corcoran	22	Fort Wayne (ECHL)	41	20	17	37	6
Lukas Cormier	20	Charlottetown (QMJHL)	62	33	48	81	60
Peter Diliberatore	22	Henderson (AHL)	53	3	17	20	54
Noah Ellis	20	Muskegon (USHL)	59	8	25	33	71
Nicolas Hague	23	Vegas	52	4	10	14	38
Zack Hayes	23	Henderson (AHL)	54	2	8	10	66
Ben Hutton	29	Vegas	58	3	10	13	32
Kaedan Korczak	21	Henderson (AHL)	47	2	12	14	28
Alec Martinez	35	Vegas	26	3	5	8	4
Brayden McNabb	31	Vegas	69	3	15	18	42
Daniil Miromanov	25	Henderson (AHL)	53	11	29	40	30
Brayden Pachal	23	Henderson (AHL)	65	2	9	11	90
Alex Pietrangelo	32	Vegas	80	13	31	44	42
Shea Theodore	27	Vegas	78	14	38	52	24
Shea Weber	37	Montreal	INJURED - DID NOT PLAY				
Zach Whitecloud	25	Vegas	59	8	11	19	20
Abram Wiebe	19	Chilliwack (BCHL)	54	2	29	31	34

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Michael Amadio	26	Tor/Veg	56	11	7	18	15
Jakub Brabenec	19	Charlottetown (QMJHL)	58	17	47	64	27
Brendan Brisson	20	Michigan (Big10)	38	21	21	42	32
Nick Campoli	23	Clarkson (ECAC)	34	5	2	7	10
William Carrier	27	Vegas	63	9	11	20	34
Paul Cotter	22	Henderson (AHL)	59	19	15	34	62
Zach Dean	19	Gatineau (QMJHL)	47	21	31	52	50
Jakub Demek	19	Edmonton (WHL)	55	20	34	54	39
Ryder Donovan	21	Wisconsin (Big10)	34	2	2	4	28
Pavel Dorofeyev	21	Henderson (AHL)	63	27	25	52	34
Martins Dzierkals	25	Plzen (Cze)	49	10	20	30	34
Jack Eichel	25	Vegas	34	14	11	25	10
Spencer Foo	28	Kunlun (KHL)	48	14	19	33	18
Byron Froese	31	Stockton (AHL)	55	20	17	37	46
Patrick Guay	20	Blain.-Bois. (QMJHL)	68	55	49	104	42
Jordan Gustafson	18	Seattle (WHL)	58	23	29	52	16
Jackson Hallum	20	GB/Dub (USHL)	62	29	41	70	90
Ben Hemmerling	18	Everett (WHL)	57	10	37	47	25
Brett Howden	24	Vegas	47	9	11	20	12
Keegan Kolesar	25	Vegas	77	7	17	24	68
Marcus Kallionkieli	21	Brandon (WHL)	36	11	16	27	24
William Karlsson	29	Vegas	67	12	23	35	10
Brandon Kruse	23	Boston Col. (HE)	38	3	23	26	18
Jake Leschyshyn	23	Vegas	41	2	4	6	8
Sakari Manninen	30	Ufa (KHL)	38	19	13	32	12
Jonathan Marchessault	31	Vegas	76	30	36	66	36
Maxim Marushev	23	Henderson (AHL)	54	6	13	19	22
Ivan Morozov	22	St. Petersburg (KHL)	17	4	4	8	4
Nolan Patrick	24	Vegas	25	2	5	7	6
Mason Primeau	21	Henderson (AHL)	52	3	8	11	49
Sheldon Rempal	27	Abbotsford (AHL)	55	33	36	69	46
Jonas Rondbjerg	23	Henderson (AHL)	39	14	13	27	4
Nicolas Roy	25	Vegas	78	15	24	39	51
Matyas Sapovaliv	18	Saginaw (OHL)	68	18	34	52	26
Reilly Smith	31	Vegas	56	16	22	38	8
Chandler Stephenson	28	Vegas	79	21	43	64	26
Mark Stone	30	Vegas	37	9	21	30	8

BRISSON: JUNFU HAN/USA TODAY NETWORK

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																			2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	P/GP	EVG	EVP	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	OTG	GWG	S	S%	TOI/GP	FOW%	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM
Jonathan Marchessault	76	30	36	66	3	36	0.87	25	46	5	20	0	0	0	4	251	12.0	17:34	43.0						
Chandler Stephenson	79	21	43	64	5	26	0.81	14	48	6	14	1	2	0	3	125	16.8	19:19	52.0						
Shea Theodore	78	14	38	52	6	24	0.67	13	40	1	12	0	0	3	5	205	6.8	23:08	--						
Alex Pietrangelo	80	13	31	44	7	42	0.55	9	27	3	13	1	4	0	0	227	5.7	24:39	--						
ESGenii Dadonov	78	20	23	43	4	18	0.55	15	35	5	8	0	0	2	4	177	11.3	15:49	20.0						
Nicolas Roy	78	15	24	39	12	51	0.50	13	33	2	5	0	1	0	3	145	10.3	16:15	48.8						
Reilly Smith	56	16	22	38	4	8	0.68	11	27	3	7	2	4	0	3	150	10.7	17:47	50.0						
Max Pacioretty	39	19	18	37	8	33	0.95	15	25	4	12	0	0	0	4	148	12.8	17:23	22.2						
William Karlsson	67	12	23	35	3	10	0.52	9	30	1	3	2	2	0	0	135	8.9	18:17	51.7						
Mark Stone	37	9	21	30	7	8	0.81	6	23	3	6	0	1	0	2	71	12.7	18:21	44.8						
Jack Eichel	34	14	11	25	3	10	0.74	11	17	3	8	0	0	0	2	133	10.5	19:24	48.6						
Mattias Janmark	67	9	16	25	3	21	0.37	7	22	0	0	2	3	0	1	89	10.1	14:21	40.7						
Keegan Kolesar	77	7	17	24	-6	68	0.31	5	22	1	1	1	1	0	0	94	7.5	12:39	40.4						
William Carrier	63	9	11	20	7	34	0.32	9	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	7.5	11:37	50.0						
Brett Howden	47	9	11	20	9	12	0.43	9	18	0	0	0	2	0	2	39	23.1	10:39	48.1						
Zach Whitecloud	59	8	11	19	21	20	0.32	7	18	0	0	1	1	0	1	94	8.5	18:48	--						
Michael Amadio	53	11	7	18	0	15	0.34	11	18	0	0	0	0	0	2	62	17.7	12:20	42.9						
Brayden McNabb	69	3	15	18	10	42	0.26	3	17	0	0	0	1	0	0	85	3.5	19:42	--						
Nicolas Hague	52	4	10	14	6	38	0.27	4	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	116	3.5	18:40	--						
Ben Hutton	58	3	10	13	7	32	0.22	3	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	78	3.9	15:28	--						
Dylan Coghlan	59	3	10	13	-5	18	0.22	1	9	2	4	0	0	0	1	108	2.8	14:12	--						
Alec Martinez	26	3	5	8	6	4	0.31	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	9.4	19:32	--						
Nolan Patrick	25	2	5	7	1	6	0.28	2	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	34	5.9	11:30	48.3						
Jake Leschyshyn	41	2	4	6	-2	8	0.15	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	5.7	11:18	46.0						
Jonas Rondbjerg	30	2	4	6	0	4	0.20	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	6.7	10:01	0.0						
Adam Brooks	7	2	0	2	3	2	0.29	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	40.0	10:59	58.6						
Paul Cotter	7	2	0	2	1	6	0.29	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	18.2	8:49	0.0						
Derrick Pouliot	2	0	1	1	0	2	0.50	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	14:20	--						
Daniil Miromanov	11	0	1	1	0	2	0.09	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0.0	9:47	--						
Sven Baertschi	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	13:54	--						
Ben Jones	2	0	0	0	0	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	8:03	--						
Brayden Pachal	2	0	0	0	-2	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	9:46	--						
Peyton Krebs	9	0	0	0	-6	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0.0	13:44	37.5						
Kaedan Korczak	1	0	0	0	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	16:37	--						
Pavel Dorofeyev	2	0	0	0	-1	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	6:30	--						
Zachary Hayes	3	0	0	0	-2	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	10:53	--						

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																2022 PLAYOFFS							
PLAYER	GP	GS	W	L	OT	SA	SVS	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO	G	A	P	PIM	GP	GS	W	L	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO
Robin Lehner	44	44	23	17	2	1,288	1,168	120	.907	2.83	2546:39	1	10												
Logan Thompson	19	17	10	5	3	569	520	49	.914	2.68	1097:44	1	0												
Laurent Brossoit	24	21	10	9	3	588	526	62	.895	2.90	1281:26	1	0												

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Tue, Oct 11	@ Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Thu, Oct 13	vs Chicago	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 15	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Tue, Oct 18	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Thu, Oct 20	vs Winnipeg	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	vs Colorado	10:00 PM
Mon, Oct 24	vs Toronto	10:00 PM
Tue, Oct 25	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Fri, Oct 28	vs Anaheim	6:00 PM
Sun, Oct 30	vs Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 3	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 5	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 8	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 10	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Sat, Nov 12	vs St. Louis	10:00 PM
Tue, Nov 15	vs San Jose	10:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	vs Arizona	10:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	@ Edmonton	10:00 PM
Mon, Nov 21	@ Vancouver	10:30 PM
Wed, Nov 23	vs Ottawa	10:00 PM
Fri, Nov 25	vs Seattle	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 26	vs Vancouver	10:00 PM
Mon, Nov 28	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 1	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 3	@ Detroit	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 5	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Wed, Dec 7	vs NY Rangers	10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 9	vs Philadelphia	10:00 PM
Sun, Dec 11	vs Boston	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 13	@ Winnipeg	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 15	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Sat, Dec 17	vs NY Islanders	10:00 PM
Mon, Dec 19	vs Buffalo	10:00 PM
Wed, Dec 21	vs Arizona	10:00 PM
Fri, Dec 23	vs St. Louis	10:00 PM
Tue, Dec 27	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Wed, Dec 28	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 31	vs Nashville	3:00 PM
Mon, Jan 2	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 5	vs Pittsburgh	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 7	vs Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Thu, Jan 12	vs Florida	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 14	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Mon, Jan 16	vs Dallas	6:00 PM
Thu, Jan 19	vs Detroit	10:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	vs Washington	10:00 PM
Sun, Jan 22	@ Arizona	8:00 PM
Tue, Jan 24	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 27	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 28	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Tue, Feb 7	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 9	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Sun, Feb 12	vs Anaheim	3:00 PM
Thu, Feb 16	vs San Jose	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	vs Tampa Bay	10:30 PM
Tue, Feb 21	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Thu, Feb 23	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Sat, Feb 25	vs Dallas	10:00 PM
Mon, Feb 27	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Wed, Mar 1	vs Carolina	10:00 PM
Fri, Mar 3	vs New Jersey	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 5	vs Montreal	6:00 PM
Tue, Mar 7	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 9	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 12	@ St. Louis	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 14	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 16	vs Calgary	10:00 PM
Sun, Mar 19	vs Columbus	4:00 PM
Tue, Mar 21	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 23	@ Calgary	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	@ Edmonton	10:00 PM
Tue, Mar 28	vs Edmonton	10:00 PM
Thu, Mar 30	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Sat, Apr 1	vs Minnesota	10:00 PM
Mon, Apr 3	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Tue, Apr 4	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Apr 6	vs Los Angeles	10:00 PM
Sat, Apr 8	@ Dallas	8:00 PM
Tue, Apr 11	vs Seattle	10:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	@ Seattle	10:00 PM

JACK
EICHEL

SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

WASHINGTON CAPITALS

THN PREDICTION | 6TH IN METROPOLITAN

ALEX OVECHKIN

BOB FRID-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY BEN RABY

AFTER A FOURTH consecutive first-round exit, GM Brian MacLellan suggested a shakeup was coming. The biggest moves included parting ways with goalies Ilya Samsonov and Vitek Vanecek, signing a new No. 1 in Darcy Kuemper and acquiring forwards Dylan Strome and Connor Brown. In signing Kuemper – arguably the top UFA goalie – to a five-year, $26.25-million deal, MacLellan addressed the club's biggest need. Inconsistent goaltending was a major issue the past two seasons. The Capitals ranked 23rd with a .898 save percentage last year – lowest among all playoff teams.

Hip surgery for Nicklas Backstrom and subsequent questions about his future prove how fragile things can be with an aging core. Backstrom could miss most, if not all, of the upcoming season. Tom Wilson will miss the first few months with a torn ACL. But with 37-year-old Alex Ovechkin remarkably showing few signs of decline, there is urgency in Washington to take advantage. Strome and Brown will help fill the void in the top six. They also bring some youth to one of the NHL's oldest rosters looking to keep its championship window open.

>OFFENSE

It's hardly a stretch to suggest Ovechkin's 17th NHL season was among his best. Besides yet another 50-goal campaign, Ovechkin's assist (40) and point (90) totals were his highest in more than a decade. Evgeny Kuznetsov enjoyed a bounce-back season and will again join Ovechkin on the top line. The versatile Brown could complete the unit while Wilson is out.

Strome, who became a UFA after not receiving a qualifying offer from Chicago, figures to be plenty motivated after signing a one-year, $3.5-million deal. He and sophomore Connor McMichael will help down the middle while Backstrom is sidelined. The streaky Anthony Mantha is a wild card with 25-goal upside. Conor Sheary (19 goals) and Garnet Hathaway (14 goals) provided secondary scoring last season. John Carlson, with a career-high 17 goals as part of his 71 points, remains the offensive catalyst for a blueline that ranked ninth in the league with 192 combined points.

>DEFENSE

Rookie Martin Fehervary impressed early last season and played primarily on the top pair with Carlson. Fehervary can scoot, and he doesn't shy away from physicality. His eight goals and 251 hits were tops among all NHL rookie defensemen last season.

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD
44-26-12 (.610)

OVERTIME
4-9

SHOOTOUT
5-3

OVERALL
13th

OFFENSE
3.29 GPG (10th)

DEFENSE
2.95 GAA (13th)

POWER PLAY
18.8% (23rd)

PENALTY KILL
80.4% (12th)

CORSI FOR/60
55.35 (15th)

CORSI AGAINST/60
54.15 (12th)

ICE TIME LEAD (F)
A. Ovechkin (20:34)

ICE TIME LEAD (D)
J. Carlson (23:49)

FAST FACTS

COACH
Peter Laviolette

GM
Brian MacLellan

ARENA
Capital One Arena

CAPACITY
18,506

AHL AFFILIATE
Hershey Bears

ECHL AFFILIATE
South Carolina Stingrays

PLAYOFF RECORD
23-24 (since 2018)

Dmitry Orlov and Nick Jensen emerged as a reliable shutdown tandem. Among pairs that played 900-plus minutes at 5-on-5, Orlov and Jensen ranked first with a 69.01 goals-for percentage. Frequently deployed for defensive-zone starts, Orlov (12 goals, 35 points) and Jensen (five goals, 21 points) still produced career-best offensive numbers. Erik Gustafsson joins the steady Trevor van Riemsdyk on the third pair. Fehervary, 22, is the only defenseman under the age of 30. Carlson is the only top-six blueliner signed beyond this season.

JOHN CARLSON

CANDICE WARD-USA TODAY SPORTS

>GOALTENDING

Kuemper provides welcome stability. For two years, neither Samsonov nor Vanecek seized control of the No. 1 job. Management couldn't afford to wait any longer. Enter the steady Kuemper, who started 73 games last year (playoffs included) en route to the Stanley Cup with Colorado. Among goalies with 175-plus games over the past five seasons, Kuemper ranks first with a 2.43 goals-against average and .921 save percentage. With Kuemper carrying the load, Charlie Lindgren slots in as a traditional backup.

>SPECIAL TEAMS

Washington's typically reliable power play showed cracks last year. Injuries to Backstrom and T.J. Oshie hurt the unit tremendously. At times, it lacked urgency and net-front scoring. While Ovechkin can still rip it from his office, Backstrom's vision and playmaking proved difficult to replace. When healthy, Oshie is among the game's best in the bumper position. His 17 power-play goals over the past two years rank first among players with fewer than 100 games played. Much of Washington's effective penalty-killing unit returns. Although Carl Hagelin's status remains in doubt (eye surgery), Brown should fill the void. Brown leads all NHL forwards in shorthanded ice time across the past three seasons.

>INTANGIBLES

The impact of beginning the year without Wilson can't be understated. Besides his physicality, speed and finishing ability, Wilson is often lauded for his leadership. Teammates play bigger when he's on the ice. Ovechkin's chase of Wayne Gretzky's all-time goals record is very real. It's not a distraction but rather a motivator for the team. Having fought the injury bug for a couple of seasons, can one of the league's oldest rosters hold up for another deep run?

>ROOKIES

First-round picks Lucas Johansen (2016) and Alexander Alexeyev (2018) made NHL cameos last season. Both will be in the mix to see time as depth defensemen this year. With Alexeyev recovering from off-season shoulder surgery, Johansen, 24, should have the inside track to earn a long-awaited opportunity.

CUP ODDS

39/1

>X-FACTOR

Given Backstrom's uncertain status, Kuznetsov will again be leaned on heavily. After bouts of inconsistency following the 2018 Stanley Cup run, Kuznetsov was back to being a point-per-game player last season. Better yet, he was fully engaged after management challenged him in 2021. For the Capitals to remain a championship contender, they'll need more of the same from the abundantly talented pivot.

>THE BRASS

Despite subpar goaltending and a rash of injuries – the Capitals never had their optimal lineup at any point last season – Peter Laviolette guided the team to a 100-point campaign. MacLellan addressed the goaltending issue with a Cup-winning keeper. Long-term commitments to several veterans have increased the urgency for inexpensive prospects to progress. H

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Alex Ovechkin	1. Evgeny Kuznetsov	1. Tom Wilson ✚
2. Dylan Strome	2. Nicklas Backstrom ✚	2. Connor Brown
3. Anthony Mantha	3. Lars Eller	3. T.J. Oshie
4. Marcus Johansson	4. Connor McMichael	4. Conor Sheary
5. Aliaksei Protas	5. Nic Dowd	5. Garnet Hathaway

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. John Carlson	6. Erik Gustafsson	1. Darcy Kuemper
2. Martin Fehervary	7. Matt Irwin	2. Charlie Lindgren
3. Dmitry Orlov	8. Alexander Alexeyev ✚	3. Zach Fucale
4. Nick Jensen	9. Gabriel Carlsson	✚ INJURED
5. Trevor van Riemsdyk	10. Lucas Johansen	🟥 INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Ilya Samsonov, G; Vitek Vanecek, G; Justin Schultz, D; Johan Larsson, LW; Michal Kempny, D

HENDRIX LAPIERRE

FUTURE WATCH

THE MOST OBVIOUS FRANCHISE to disprove a 'Russian Factor' at the draft was the Ovechkin-led Caps, and they broke the ice on non-CHL imports when they took Ivan Miroshnichenko 20th overall. He shoots hard and hits with authority, but more importantly, his cancer treatment is going well. Crafty Hendrix Lapierre leads the next generation up front, while Vincent Iorio is the top blueliner. Ryan Chesley, a 2022 second-rounder, was projected to go in the first.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Hendrix Lapierre, C

Age 20 **2021-22 Team** Acadie-Bath. (QMJHL)
Made the Caps out of camp before stellar junior year. Starting to shoot more, and it shows.
Acquired 22nd overall, 2020 **NHL** '22-23

2. Ivan Miroshnichenko, LW

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Omsk (Rus.2)
Power, skill, compete. He has it all. Hockey secondary after Hodgkin's lymphoma diagnosis.
Acquired 20th overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

3. Ryan Chesley, D

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** USA U18 (NTDP)
Minnesota-bound smooth defender reliable in all three zones. Otherworldly leg strength.
Acquired 37th overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

4. Vincent Iorio, D

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Brandon (WHL)
Big, mobile defender was minute-muncher for Brandon. Impressive 44-point output, too.
Acquired 55th overall, 2021 **NHL** '25-26

5. Alexander Alexeyev, D

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Hershey (AHL)
Blue-collar style and reliable penalty-killer. Lacks speed but makes up for it with size.
Acquired 31st overall, 2018 **NHL** '22-23

6. Lucas Johansen, D

Age 24 **2021-22 Team** Hershey (AHL)
Overcame injuries issues to make NHL debut last season. Brother of Predators' star Ryan.
Acquired 28th overall, 2016 **NHL** '23-24

7. Axel Jonsson-Fjallby, LW

Age 24 **2021-22 Team** Hershey (AHL)
Seasoning in AHL paid off in transition to NHL. Two goals and four points in 23 NHL games.
Acquired Waivers (Buf), Oct. 2021 **NHL** '22-23

8. Beck Malenstyn, LW

Age 24 **2021-22 Team** Hershey (AHL)
Energy-line winger played zero games in 2020-21 as taxi-squad member. AHL producer.
Acquired 145th overall, 2016 **NHL** '23-24

9. Garrett Pilon, C

Age 24 **2021-22 Team** Hershey (AHL)
Nose for the net and adept at center and wing. Needs to strengthen ahead of regular NHL duty.
Acquired 87th overall, 2016 **NHL** '23-24

10. Alexander Suzdalev, LW

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** HV71 Jr. (Swe.)
Good puckhandler in tight spaces. Drives play with his stickhandling ability.
Acquired 70th overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Chase Clark	20	T-C/Mus (USHL)	20	7	7	1	3.28	.904
Garin Bjorklund	20	Medicine Hat (WHL)	48	8	36	2	4.26	.877
Zach Fucale	27	Hershey (AHL)	31	11	15	7	2.62	.896
Mitchell Gibson	23	Harvard (ECAC)	29	18	10	1	2.17	.918
Sergey Kostenko	30	Zeytinburnu (Tur)	12	5	6	0	4.50	N/A
Darcy Kuemper	32	Colorado	57	37	12	5	2.54	.921
Charlie Lindgren	28	Springfield (AHL)	34	24	7	1	2.21	.925
Hunter Shepard	26	S. Carolina (ECHL)	23	12	9	2	2.88	.917
Clay Stevenson	23	Dartmouth (ECAC)	23	6	14	2	2.70	.922

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Alexander Alexeyev	22	Hershey (AHL)	68	1	18	19	51
John Carlson	32	Washington	78	17	54	71	20
Gabriel Carlsson	25	Columbus	38	2	7	9	10
Ryan Chesley	18	USA U18 (NTDP)	59	12	17	29	69
Martin Fehervary	22	Washington	79	8	9	17	26
Tobias Geisser	23	Hershey (AHL)	68	3	10	13	20
David Gucciardi	19	Michigan St. (Big10)	36	5	6	11	22
Erik Gustafsson	30	Chicago	59	3	15	18	34
Martin Has	21	Shawinigan (QMJHL)	57	8	12	20	40
Vincent Iorio	19	Brandon (WHL)	60	11	33	44	49
Matt Irwin	34	Washington	17	1	3	4	6
Nick Jensen	31	Washington	76	5	16	21	21
Lucas Johansen	24	Hershey (AHL)	62	8	20	28	18
Brent Johnson	19	N. Dakota (NCHC)	23	2	1	3	12
Dru Krebs	19	Medicine Hat (WHL)	66	4	15	19	50
Joaquim Lemay	20	Lincoln (USHL)	58	9	37	46	75
Benton Maass	23	Minn. St. Mank. (NCHC)	42	3	11	14	14
Dylan McIlrath	30	Hershey (AHL)	74	4	6	10	99
Bobby Nardella	26	Hershey (AHL)	44	6	17	23	18
Dmitry Orlov	31	Washington	76	12	23	35	44
Trevor van Riemsdyk	31	Washington	72	1	16	17	40

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Nicklas Backstrom	34	Washington	47	6	25	31	12
Henrik Borgstrom	25	Chicago	52	4	3	7	22
Connor Brown	28	Ottawa	64	10	29	39	10
Kody Clark	22	Hershey (AHL)	63	8	11	19	53
Nic Dowd	32	Washington	64	10	14	24	44
Lars Eller	33	Washington	72	13	18	31	40
Carl Hagelin	34	Washington	53	3	11	14	20
Hakon Hanelt	19	Gatineau (QMJHL)	16	2	8	10	0
Garnet Hathaway	30	Washington	76	14	12	26	57
Ryan Hofer	20	Everett (WHL)	67	25	33	58	84
Marcus Johansson	31	Sea/Wsh	69	9	20	29	4
Axel Jonsson-Fjallby	24	Hershey (AHL)	44	16	18	34	8
Jake Karabela	18	Guelph (OHL)	68	12	33	45	28
Evgeny Kuznetsov	30	Washington	79	24	54	78	44
Hendrix Lapierre	20	Acadie-Bath. (QMJHL)	40	21	30	51	22
Brett Leason	23	Washington	36	3	3	6	4
Oskar Magnusson	20	AIK (Swe2)	41	5	6	11	8
Beck Malenstyn	24	Hershey (AHL)	65	10	6	16	20
Anthony Mantha	28	Washington	37	9	14	23	14
Connor McMichael	21	Washington	68	9	9	18	10
Ivan Miroshnichenko	18	Omsk (Rus2)	31	10	6	16	6
T.J. Oshie	35	Washington	44	11	14	25	18
Alex Ovechkin	37	Washington	77	50	40	90	18
Ludwig Persson	18	Frolunda (Swe Jr.)	41	25	36	61	16
Garrett Pilon	24	Hershey (AHL)	60	17	25	42	30
Aliaksei Protas	21	Hershey (AHL)	42	8	16	24	10
Damien Riat	25	Lausanne (Swi)	35	11	17	28	12
Henrik Rybinski	21	Seattle (WHL)	47	21	44	65	52
Mike Sgarbossa	30	Hershey (AHL)	30	10	11	21	10
Conor Sheary	30	Washington	71	19	24	43	14
Joe Snively	26	Hershey (AHL)	35	15	23	38	18
Dylan Strome	25	Chicago	69	22	26	48	28
Riley Sutter	22	Hershey (AHL)	39	2	6	8	18
Alexander Suzdalev	18	HV71 (Swe Jr.)	45	15	36	51	10
Bogdan Trineyev	20	Dyn. Moscow (Rus Jr.)	21	3	15	18	4
Mike Vecchione	29	Hershey (AHL)	59	16	28	44	37
Tom Wilson	28	Washington	78	24	28	52	98

LAPIERRE: ANDRE EMOND/CHICOUTIMI SAGUENEENS

STATS | 2021-22

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON																			2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	P/GP	EVG	EVP	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	OTG	GWG	S	S%	TOI/GP	FOW%	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM
Alex Ovechkin	77	50	40	90	8	18	1.17	33	60	16	29	1	1	0	5	334	15.0	20:34	30.8	6	1	5	6	-3	0
Evgeny Kuznetsov	79	24	54	78	7	44	0.99	13	46	8	27	3	5	0	4	208	11.5	20:17	43.5	6	2	3	5	-3	2
John Carlson	78	17	54	71	13	20	0.91	10	43	7	25	0	3	0	2	195	8.7	23:49	--	6	1	4	5	-5	2
Tom Wilson	78	24	28	52	13	98	0.67	18	39	4	10	2	3	1	5	151	15.9	18:35	42.3	1	1	0	1	0	0
Conor Sheary	71	19	24	43	-2	14	0.61	17	37	2	6	0	0	0	5	129	14.7	15:17	40.7	6	0	1	1	-2	0
Dmitry Orlov	76	12	23	35	25	44	0.46	10	31	2	4	0	0	1	4	127	9.5	20:58	--	6	0	1	1	-4	2
Lars Eller	72	13	18	31	-4	40	0.43	13	29	0	2	0	0	1	2	116	11.2	16:07	49.5	6	1	2	3	-4	0
Nicklas Backstrom	47	6	25	31	-8	12	0.66	5	17	1	14	0	0	1	1	68	8.8	17:29	46.4	6	2	4	6	1	4
Garnet Hathaway	76	14	12	26	19	57	0.34	14	25	0	0	0	1	0	4	124	11.3	13:23	35.7	6	1	1	2	-6	16
T.J. Oshie	44	11	14	25	-12	18	0.57	7	14	4	10	0	1	0	1	77	14.3	17:27	42.6	6	6	1	7	2	0
Nic Dowd	64	10	14	24	10	44	0.38	9	22	0	1	1	1	0	0	90	11.1	14:16	53.7	6	1	1	2	-3	4
Anthony Mantha	37	9	14	23	4	14	0.62	9	21	0	2	0	0	0	0	82	11.0	15:10	75.0	6	0	4	4	-3	13
Justin Schultz	74	4	19	23	-15	16	0.31	2	18	2	5	0	0	0	1	92	4.4	16:55	--	6	1	2	3	2	6
Nick Jensen	76	5	16	21	32	21	0.28	5	21	0	0	0	0	0	1	88	5.7	19:21	--	6	0	0	0	-5	4
Connor McMichael	68	9	9	18	-3	10	0.26	9	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	105	8.6	10:28	42.9	4	0	1	1	0	0
Martin Fehervary	79	8	9	17	15	26	0.22	7	15	0	0	1	2	0	2	96	8.3	19:39	--	6	0	0	0	-7	8
Trevor van Riemsdyk	72	1	16	17	-3	40	0.24	1	16	0	0	0	1	0	0	75	1.3	17:28	--	6	1	1	2	3	0
Daniel Sprong	47	8	6	14	6	8	0.30	8	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	102	7.8	12:45	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Carl Hagelin	53	3	11	14	10	20	0.26	3	13	0	0	0	1	0	1	71	4.2	14:14	28.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Aliaksei Protas	33	3	6	9	4	0	0.27	3	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	34	8.8	11:50	44.8	--	--	--	--	--	--
Joe Snively	12	4	3	7	3	2	0.58	3	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	21	19.1	11:33	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Marcus Johansson	18	3	3	6	-4	0	0.33	3	5	0	1	0	0	0	1	30	10.0	14:51	55.6	6	1	1	2	1	0
Brett Leason	36	3	3	6	1	4	0.17	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	6.7	8:57	37.5	1	0	0	0	-1	0
Johan Larsson	14	1	5	6	-1	2	0.43	0	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	14	7.1	11:53	20.0	6	0	2	2	-2	2
Michael Sgarbossa	10	2	2	4	3	0	0.40	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	18.2	9:54	56.9	--	--	--	--	--	--
Axel Jonsson-Fjallby	23	2	2	4	0	4	0.17	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	6.9	11:11	25.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Matt Irwin	17	1	3	4	0	6	0.24	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	3.5	12:39	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Michal Kempny	15	1	1	2	-3	16	0.13	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10.0	15:50	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Beck Malenstyn	12	1	0	1	2	9	0.08	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10.0	9:03	14.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Garrett Pilon	2	1	0	1	1	0	0.50	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100.0	9:25	44.4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hendrix Lapierre	6	1	0	1	2	2	0.17	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	14.3	9:35	26.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lucas Johansen	1	0	1	1	1	0	1.00	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	12:18	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dennis Cholowski	7	0	1	1	-4	2	0.14	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0	13:35	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mike Vecchione	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0	5:06	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Alexander Alexeyev	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	10:35	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2021-22 REGULAR SEASON															2022 PLAYOFFS								
PLAYER	GP	GS	W	L	OT	SA	SVS	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO	G	A	P	PIM	GP	GS	W	L	GA	SV%	GAA	TOI	SO
Ilya Samsonov	44	39	23	12	5	1,145	1,026	119	.896	3.02	2361:18	3	0	5	4	1	3	148	135	13	.912	2.97	262:54	0	0
Vitek Vanecek	42	39	20	12	6	1,117	1,014	103	.908	2.67	2317:23	4	0	2	2	1	1	51	44	7	.863	4.21	99:49	0	2
Zach Fucale	4	3	1	1	1	66	61	5	.924	1.75	171:35	1	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pheonix Copley	2	1	0	1	0	41	36	5	.878	3.11	96:35	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Wed, Oct 12	vs Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 13	@ Toronto	7:30 PM
Sat, Oct 15	vs Montreal	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 17	vs Vancouver	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 20	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	vs Los Angeles	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 24	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Thu, Oct 27	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Sat, Oct 29	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Mon, Oct 31	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 1	vs Vegas	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 3	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Sat, Nov 5	vs Arizona	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 7	vs Edmonton	8:00 PM
Wed, Nov 9	vs Pittsburgh	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 11	vs Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sun, Nov 13	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 15	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	vs Colorado	7:00 PM
Wed, Nov 23	vs Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Fri, Nov 25	vs Calgary	2:00 PM
Sat, Nov 26	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 29	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Thu, Dec 1	@ Seattle	10:00 PM
Sat, Dec 3	@ Calgary	10:00 PM
Mon, Dec 5	@ Edmonton	8:30 PM
Wed, Dec 7	@ Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Fri, Dec 9	vs Seattle	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec 11	@ Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 13	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Thu, Dec 15	vs Dallas	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 17	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Mon, Dec 19	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 22	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 23	vs Winnipeg	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 27	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Thu, Dec 29	vs Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sat, Dec 31	vs Montreal	4:00 PM
Tue, Jan 3	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 5	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 6	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 8	vs Columbus	5:00 PM
Wed, Jan 11	@ Philadelphia	7:30 PM
Sat, Jan 14	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 16	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Tue, Jan 17	vs Minnesota	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 19	@ Arizona	9:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 24	@ Colorado	9:00 PM
Thu, Jan 26	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 29	@ Toronto	5:00 PM
Tue, Jan 31	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 11	@ Boston	3:00 PM
Sun, Feb 12	vs San Jose	1:00 PM
Tue, Feb 14	vs Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 16	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 18	@ Carolina	8:00 PM
Tue, Feb 21	vs Detroit	7:00 PM
Thu, Feb 23	vs Anaheim	7:00 PM
Sat, Feb 25	vs NY Rangers	3:00 PM
Sun, Feb 26	@ Buffalo	1:00 PM
Wed, Mar 1	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 4	@ San Jose	6:00 PM
Mon, Mar 6	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Thu, Mar 9	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 11	@ NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Tue, Mar 14	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Wed, Mar 15	vs Buffalo	7:00 PM
Fri, Mar 17	vs St. Louis	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 19	@ Minnesota	2:00 PM
Tue, Mar 21	vs Columbus	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 23	vs Chicago	7:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	@ Pittsburgh	8:00 PM
Wed, Mar 29	vs NY Islanders	7:30 PM
Thu, Mar 30	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Sun, Apr 2	vs NY Rangers	1:00 PM
Thu, Apr 6	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Sat, Apr 8	vs Florida	7:00 PM
Mon, Apr 10	vs NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 11	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM

TOM WILSON

DAVID KIROUAC-USA TODAY SPORTS

WINNIPEG JETS

THN PREDICTION | 6TH IN CENTRAL

CONNOR HELLEBUYCK

JAMES CAREY LAUDER-USA TODAY SPORTS

BY JARED CLINTON

THAT SOUND HEARD echoing through Canada Life Centre last season was the Jets' window slamming shut. A turbulent season saw coach Paul Maurice resign, interim coach Dave Lowry struggle to turn the tide and Winnipeg miss the playoffs for the first time since 2016-17. Don't take any of this to mean the Jets are throwing in the towel as an organization, however.

Off-season coaching hire Rick Bowness – who coached the original Jets, hard as that may be to believe – will step in and attempt to pry the window back open. Is it an impossible task? Not quite. This is still a group with top-end talent. But even with a number of high-octane offensive pieces and one of the best goaltenders in the world, Winnipeg legitimately competing for a post-season berth is far more improbable than it has been in the past several seasons.

>OFFENSE

This is Kyle Connor's offense now. He completed his rise to stardom with last season's 47-goal, 93-point output, and there are countless ways he can hurt an opposing defense. In Mark Scheifele and Pierre-Luc Dubois, Winnipeg has two steady, point-per-game pivots who should continue to flourish. Transformative for the attack, though, would be a star-making performance from Nikolaj Ehlers. He was primed for one before injuries slowed him down last season. Between Ehlers and Connor, goal-scoring won't be a concern – at least not from the top six.

There are gaping holes further down the lineup, and barring an unforeseen breakout from, say, Adam Lowry or Ma-

2021-22 NUMBERS

RECORD	39-32-11 (.543)
OVERTIME	5-7
SHOOTOUT	2-4
OVERALL	19th
OFFENSE	3.05 GPG (16th)
DEFENSE	3.09 GAA (20th)
POWER PLAY	21.1% (17th)
PENALTY KILL	75.0% (29th)
CORSI FOR/60	55.78 (14th)
CORSI AGAINST/60	57.04 (22nd)
ICE TIME LEAD (F)	K. Connor (21:47)
ICE TIME LEAD (D)	J. Morrissey (23:40)

FAST FACTS

COACH	Rick Bowness
GM	Kevin Cheveldayoff
ARENA	Canada Life Centre
CAPACITY	15,321
AHL AFFILIATE	Manitoba Moose
ECHL AFFILIATE	N/A
PLAYOFF RECORD	16-19 (since 2018)

son Appleton, there are more questions than answers when it comes to contributions from the bottom six.

DEFENSE

Defensively porous under Maurice, the Jets hope that Bowness' own-zone success during his time in Dallas is transferable. Josh Morrissey will be leaned on heavily, as he long has been, and Neal Pionk is expected to be right there with him in ice time.

How the rest of the defense corps is deployed beyond that, however, is anyone's guess, especially as competition for minutes will be difficult among veteran rearguards Nate Schmidt and Dylan DeMelo and up-and-comers Dylan Samberg and Ville Heinola. The latter was the 20th overall pick in 2019 and seems primed for a spot after plenty of AHL seasoning. No matter where the minutes go, though, things can't get much worse than last season, when Winnipeg surrendered a barrage of shots and scoring chances nightly.

MARK
SCHEIFELE

JAMES CAREY LAUDER-USA TODAY SPORTS

GOALTENDING

Last year marked the fourth straight season in which Connor Hellebuyck led the NHL in shots against and saves, and he was 29 minutes shy of seeing more action than any other goalie for a second year running. And there will be no rest for the wicked, as the mercurial David Rittich, brought in from Nashville, doesn't project to reliably give the Jets many chances to give Hellebuyck nights off. Much of the Jets' success will again rest on the perennial Vezina Trophy contender Hellebuyck's shoulders.

SPECIAL TEAMS

"Ugly" is the only descriptor necessary for the Jets' penalty killing last season. Winnipeg's kill rate tied for fourth-worst in the NHL, which is unsurprising given they allowed more than a shot per minute of PK time last season and had the league's worst expected goals against rate while shorthanded. The only upside was the nine shorthanded tallies, tied for sixth-most last season. Full-scale turnover behind the bench is reason for cautious optimism things will improve. The power play, at least, was middle-of-the-pack with 21.1-percent efficiency.

INTANGIBLES

One hallmark of Bowness' time in Dallas was how often the Stars played to the situation and flipped a switch. Up a goal, Bowness' charges shut it down defensively. Down a goal, it was all offense, all the time. Bringing that same versatility to Winnipeg could be a recipe for success, especially as the on-paper roster isn't up to snuff with the best in the Western Conference.

ROOKIES

While not awe-inspiring numbers, Cole Perfetti's two-goal, seven-point output in 18 games prior to an injury that sidelined him for the final two months of the season gave the indication he can be a top-six contributor and power-play producer in the near future. Don't count out the possibility of 2022 first-rounder Brad Lambert pushing for a spot in training camp.

CUP ODDS

45/1

X-FACTOR

Dubois informing the Jets he wants to explore unrestricted free agency at his first available opportunity has thrown a wrench in plans to make him a centerpiece of the attack. If Winnipeg starts slowly, does Dubois immediately go on the trade block? And if so, does that give the Jets reason to consider a minor teardown?

THE BRASS

GM Kevin Cheveldayoff was quiet in free agency, and Winnipeg appears content to go with its current lineup. He's generally not a wheeler and dealer, but the Jets do seem ready for a reset, so Cheveldayoff will monitor the market closely throughout the season. H

DEPTH CHART | 2022-23

LEFT WING	CENTER	RIGHT WING
1. Kyle Connor	**1.** Mark Scheifele	**1.** Blake Wheeler
2. Nikolaj Ehlers	**2.** Pierre-Luc Dubois	**2.** Cole Perfetti
3. Morgan Barron	**3.** Adam Lowry	**3.** Mason Appleton
4. Jansen Harkins	**4.** David Gustafsson	**4.** Kristian Reichel
5. Daniel Torgersson	**5.** Dominic Toninato	**5.** Kevin Stenlund

DEFENSE		GOALIE
1. Josh Morrissey	**6.** Logan Stanley	**1.** Connor Hellebuyck
2. Neal Pionk	**7.** Dylan Samberg	**2.** David Rittich
3. Nate Schmidt	**8.** Ville Heinola	**3.** Mikhail Berdin
4. Dylan DeMelo	**9.** Kyle Capobianco	
5. Brenden Dillon	**10.** Declan Chisholm	

✚ INJURED
■ INDICATES NEW ARRIVAL

KEY DEPARTURES & UNSIGNED UFAs Paul Stastny, C; Evgeny Svechnikov, LW; Eric Comrie, G; Zach Sanford, LW; Adam Brooks, LW

RUTGER
MCGROARTY

FUTURE WATCH

THE JETS NEED TO find a way to get Ville Heinola into the lineup consistently, even though they have a lot of options on defense. Dylan Samberg is also on the cusp in that regard, while playing a different style. Chaz Lucius turned pro, but injuries continue to be a concern. In 2022, Winnipeg got a big, two-way winger in Rutger McGroarty, plus a dynamic but divisive talent in Brad Lambert, who will play with a chip on his shoulder after dropping in the draft.

TOP 10 PROSPECTS

1. Rutger McGroarty, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** USA U18 (NTDP)
An offensive vulture who knows how to find space. Skating is the lone knock on his game.
Acquired 14th overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

2. Ville Heinola, D

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Manitoba (AHL)
Smarts over standout skill for mid-sized defender. NHL chance soon under new coach.
Acquired 20th overall, 2019 **NHL** '22-23

3. Chaz Lucius, C

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** Minnesota (Big Ten)
Natural goal-scorer set to explode in sophomore year at Minnesota. Release is exceptional.
Acquired 18th overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

4. Dylan Samberg, D

Age 23 **2021-22 Team** Manitoba (AHL)
Towering defender got 15-game audition with Jets. He's a two-time NCAA champion.
Acquired 43rd overall, 2017 **NHL** '22-23

5. Brad Lambert, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Pelicans (Fin.)
His skating and skill is arguably already at an NHL level. His compete is questioned at times.
Acquired 30th overall, 2022 **NHL** '25-26

6. Nikita Chibrikov, RW

Age 19 **2021-22 Team** SKA-Neva (Rus.2)
Deft stickhandler made noise in Russian minors. Has to prove he can do it at top level.
Acquired 50th overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

7. David Gustafsson, C

Age 22 **2021-22 Team** Manitoba (AHL)
Destined for fourth-line shutdown duty. Jets pleased with that. Coming off best AHL season.
Acquired 60th overall, 2018 **NHL** '23-24

8. Dmitri Rashevsky, RW

Age 21 **2021-22 Team** Dynamo Moscow (KHL)
Impressive 35-point KHL output in first full pro season. Plays fast, north-south game.
Acquired 146th overall, 2021 **NHL** '24-25

9. Elias Salomonsson, D

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Skelleftea Jr. (Swe.)
Sublime skating technique a great foundation for a rangy, mobile two-way game.
Acquired 55th overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

10. Danny Zhilkin, C

Age 18 **2021-22 Team** Guelph (OHL)
High-skill creator and good skater. Russian-born pivot represented Canada at 2021 U-18s.
Acquired 77th overall, 2022 **NHL** '26-27

ORGANIZATIONAL ROSTER

GOALIES	AGE	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Mikhail Berdin	24	Manitoba (AHL)	32	19	10	3	2.40	.902
Domenic DiVincentiis	18	North Bay (OHL)	27	14	8	1	2.59	.907
Connor Hellebuyck	29	Winnipeg	66	29	27	10	2.97	.910
Arvid Holm	23	Manitoba (AHL)	24	12	10	2	2.90	.877
Jared Moe	23	Wisconsin (Big10)	31	8	16	3	2.97	.917
Logan Neaton	23	Miami-Ohio (NCHC)	7	1	4	0	4.45	.887
David Rittich	30	Nashville	17	6	3	4	3.57	.886
Oskari Salminen	22	Jukurit (Fin)	55	29	14	11	2.07	.920

DEFENSEMEN	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Tyrel Bauer	20	Seattle (WHL)	32	5	5	10	59
Garrett Brown	18	Sioux City (USHL)	62	4	12	16	24
Kyle Capobianco	25	Arizona	45	2	7	9	38
Declan Chisholm	22	Manitoba (AHL)	53	9	21	30	20
Dylan DeMelo	29	Winnipeg	76	1	12	13	28
Brenden Dillon	31	Winnipeg	79	3	17	20	67
Leon Gawanke	23	Manitoba (AHL)	65	10	26	36	19
Ville Heinola	21	Manitoba (AHL)	41	5	21	26	18
Anton Johannesson	20	HV71 (Swe Jr.)	26	6	12	18	8
Johnny Kovacevic	25	Manitoba (AHL)	62	11	19	30	45
Dmitry Kuzmin	19	Flint (OHL)	57	18	26	44	18
Simon Lundmark	21	Manitoba (AHL)	57	4	10	14	14
Josh Morrissey	27	Winnipeg	79	12	25	37	66
Neal Pionk	27	Winnipeg	77	3	31	34	46
Elias Salomonsson	18	Skelleftea (Swe Jr.)	35	11	11	22	10
Dylan Samberg	23	Manitoba (AHL)	32	0	12	12	26
Ashton Sautner	28	Abbotsford (AHL)	41	3	10	13	28
Nate Schmidt	31	Winnipeg	77	4	28	32	10
Logan Stanley	24	Winnipeg	58	1	12	13	44

FORWARDS	AGE	2021-22	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Mason Appleton	26	Sea/Wpg	68	8	13	21	30
Morgan Barron	23	NYR/Wpg	27	2	3	5	8
Harrison Blaisdell	21	N. Hampshire (HE)	25	2	6	8	6
Wyatt Bongiovanni	23	Quinnipiac (ECAC)	42	16	18	34	45
Nikita Chibrikov	19	SKA-Neva (Rus2)	28	15	16	31	10
Kyle Connor	25	Winnipeg	79	47	46	93	4
Pierre-Luc Dubois	24	Winnipeg	81	28	32	60	106
Nikolaj Ehlers	26	Winnipeg	62	28	27	55	20
Michael Eyssimont	26	Manitoba (AHL)	58	18	24	42	90
David Gustafsson	22	Manitoba (AHL)	47	15	15	30	10
Jansen Harkins	25	Winnipeg	77	7	6	13	15
Pavel Kraskovsky	26	Yaroslavl (KHL)	47	8	13	21	22
Brad Lambert	18	JYP/Pelicans (Fin)	49	4	6	10	43
Alex Limoges	25	Manitoba (AHL)	62	23	17	40	13
Adam Lowry	29	Winnipeg	79	13	8	21	59
Chaz Lucius	19	Minnesota (NCHC)	24	9	10	19	23
Saku Maenalanen	28	Karpat (Fin)	47	13	28	41	67
Jeff Malott	26	Manitoba (AHL)	62	23	18	41	55
Rutger McGroarty	18	USA U18 (NTDP)	54	35	34	69	65
Henri Nikkanen	21	Pelicans (Fin)	60	7	5	12	8
Cole Perfetti	20	Winnipeg	18	2	5	7	0
Dmitri Rashevsky	21	Dynamo Moscow (KHL)	48	19	16	35	6
Kristian Reichel	24	Manitoba (AHL)	30	5	8	13	12
Mark Scheifele	29	Winnipeg	67	29	41	70	23
Kevin Stenlund	26	Cleveland (AHL)	42	8	17	25	20
Ivan Telegin	21	Omsk (KHL)	48	19	16	35	6
Dominic Toninato	28	Winnipeg	77	7	7	14	22
Daniel Torgersson	20	AIK (Swe2)	40	7	10	17	14
Kristian Vesalainen	23	Winnipeg	53	2	1	3	6
Fabian Wagner	18	Linkoping (Swe Jr.)	43	12	26	38	4
Blake Wheeler	36	Winnipeg	65	17	43	60	36
Austin Wong	22	Harvard (ECAC)	32	2	6	8	46
Danny Zhilkin	18	Guelph (OHL)	66	23	32	55	24

JOSH
MORRISSEY

MCGROARTY: RENA LAVERTY/USA HOCKEY; MORRISSEY: KYLE ROSS-USA TODAY SPORTS

STATS | 2021-22

									2021-22 REGULAR SEASON											2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**	**P/GP**	**EVG**	**EVP**	**PPG**	**PPP**	**SHG**	**SHP**	**OTG**	**GWG**	**S**	**S%**	**TOI/GP**	**FOW%**	**GP**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**+/-**	**PIM**
Kyle Connor	79	47	46	93	-3	4	1.18	36	62	8	28	3	3	1	9	317	14.8	21:47	14.3	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mark Scheifele	67	29	41	70	-17	23	1.04	22	51	7	19	0	0	2	3	159	18.2	21:08	50.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pierre-Luc Dubois	81	28	32	60	-6	106	0.74	13	41	15	19	0	0	1	6	233	12.0	18:55	46.9	--	--	--	--	--	--
Blake Wheeler	65	17	43	60	-15	36	0.92	14	40	3	20	0	0	0	2	167	10.2	19:32	19.1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nikolaj Ehlers	62	28	27	55	18	20	0.89	24	46	4	9	0	0	1	2	245	11.4	18:04	66.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Paul Stastny	71	21	24	45	14	14	0.63	17	37	4	8	0	0	0	2	141	14.9	17:47	56.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Josh Morrissey	79	12	25	37	-3	66	0.47	6	22	6	15	0	0	0	3	173	6.9	23:40	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Andrew Copp	56	13	22	35	2	8	0.63	9	24	3	9	1	2	0	3	151	8.6	19:48	54.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Neal Pionk	77	3	31	34	5	46	0.44	2	22	1	12	0	0	0	1	140	2.1	21:08	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nate Schmidt	77	4	28	32	-4	10	0.42	3	20	1	11	0	1	0	1	117	3.4	20:13	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Adam Lowry	79	13	8	21	1	59	0.27	10	14	0	2	3	5	0	0	115	11.3	15:29	53.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Brenden Dillon	79	3	17	20	16	67	0.25	3	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	3.5	18:50	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
ESGeny Svechnikov	72	7	12	19	-4	38	0.26	7	19	0	0	0	0	0	1	78	9.0	10:45	42.9	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dominic Toninato	77	7	7	14	1	22	0.18	6	9	0	1	1	4	0	1	44	15.9	8:24	42.4	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jansen Harkins	77	7	6	13	-8	15	0.17	7	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	67	10.5	9:29	63.6	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dylan DeMelo	76	1	12	13	10	28	0.17	0	11	0	0	1	2	0	0	78	1.3	18:30	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Logan Stanley	58	1	12	13	1	44	0.22	1	12	0	0	0	1	0	1	80	1.3	15:39	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cole Perfetti	18	2	5	7	1	0	0.39	2	6	0	1	0	0	0	1	21	9.5	14:09	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Dylan Samberg	15	0	5	5	3	4	0.33	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0.0	14:51	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ville Heinola	12	0	5	5	-2	10	0.42	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0.0	14:54	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mason Appleton	19	2	2	4	3	16	0.21	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	30	6.7	16:23	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Morgan Barron	14	2	2	4	-3	4	0.29	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	8.3	10:38	41.7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nathan Beaulieu	24	0	4	4	-7	25	0.17	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	24	0.0	10:46	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Zach Sanford	18	0	4	4	-2	13	0.22	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0.0	14:41	25.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kristian Vesalainen	53	2	1	3	-8	6	0.06	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	4.7	8:40	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kristian Reichel	13	1	1	2	-2	7	0.15	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	5.6	10:24	100.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Riley Nash	15	0	0	0	-1	4	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.0	8:49	53.9	--	--	--	--	--	--
Austin Poganski	16	0	0	0	-3	7	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.0	9:19	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CJ Suess	3	0	0	0	0	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	5:43	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Adam Brooks	14	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.0	7:28	50.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Michael Eyssimont	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0	5:49	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Johnathan Kovacevic	4	0	0	0	1	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.0	10:49	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Declan Chisholm	2	0	0	0	1	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.0	12:57	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
David Gustafsson	2	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	2:28	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Jeff Malott	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	4:06	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

									2021-22 REGULAR SEASON											2022 PLAYOFFS					
PLAYER	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**SA**	**SVS**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**	**G**	**A**	**P**	**PIM**	**GP**	**GS**	**W**	**L**	**GA**	**SV%**	**GAA**	**TOI**	**SO**
Connor Hellebuyck	66	66	29	27	10	2,155	1,962	193	.910	2.97	3903:30	4	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Eric Comrie	19	16	10	5	1	550	506	44	.920	2.58	1024:49	1	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

Fri, Oct 14	vs NY Rangers	8:00 PM
Mon, Oct 17	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Wed, Oct 19	@ Colorado	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 20	@ Vegas	10:00 PM
Sat, Oct 22	vs Toronto	7:00 PM
Mon, Oct 24	vs St. Louis	8:00 PM
Thu, Oct 27	@ Los Angeles	10:30 PM
Fri, Oct 28	@ Arizona	10:30 PM
Sun, Oct 30	@ Vegas	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 3	vs Montreal	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 5	vs Chicago	3:00 PM
Tue, Nov 8	vs Dallas	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 12	@ Calgary	10:00 PM
Sun, Nov 13	@ Seattle	8:00 PM
Thu, Nov 17	vs Anaheim	8:00 PM
Sat, Nov 19	vs Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Mon, Nov 21	vs Carolina	7:30 PM
Wed, Nov 23	@ Minnesota	7:00 PM
Fri, Nov 25	@ Dallas	8:30 PM
Sun, Nov 27	@ Chicago	7:00 PM
Tue, Nov 29	vs Colorado	8:00 PM
Fri, Dec 2	vs Columbus	8:00 PM
Sun, Dec 4	vs Anaheim	3:00 PM
Tue, Dec 6	vs Florida	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 8	@ St. Louis	8:00 PM
Fri, Dec 9	@ Chicago	8:30 PM
Sun, Dec 11	vs Washington	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 13	vs Vegas	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 15	vs Nashville	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 17	@ Vancouver	10:00 PM
Sun, Dec 18	@ Seattle	8:00 PM
Tue, Dec 20	vs Ottawa	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 22	@ Boston	7:00 PM
Fri, Dec 23	@ Washington	7:00 PM
Tue, Dec 27	vs Minnesota	8:00 PM
Thu, Dec 29	vs Vancouver	8:00 PM
Sat, Dec 31	@ Edmonton	10:00 PM
Tue, Jan 3	vs Calgary	8:00 PM
Fri, Jan 6	vs Tampa Bay	8:00 PM
Sun, Jan 8	vs Vancouver	3:00 PM
Tue, Jan 10	@ Detroit	7:30 PM
Thu, Jan 12	@ Buffalo	7:00 PM
Fri, Jan 13	@ Pittsburgh	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 15	vs Arizona	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 17	@ Montreal	7:00 PM
Thu, Jan 19	@ Toronto	7:00 PM
Sat, Jan 21	@ Ottawa	7:00 PM
Sun, Jan 22	@ Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Tue, Jan 24	@ Nashville	8:00 PM
Thu, Jan 26	vs Buffalo	8:00 PM
Sat, Jan 28	vs Philadelphia	7:00 PM
Mon, Jan 30	vs St. Louis	8:00 PM
Sat, Feb 11	vs Chicago	10:00 PM
Tue, Feb 14	vs Seattle	8:00 PM
Thu, Feb 16	@ Columbus	7:00 PM
Sun, Feb 19	@ New Jersey	7:00 PM
Mon, Feb 20	@ NY Rangers	7:00 PM
Wed, Feb 22	@ NY Islanders	7:00 PM
Fri, Feb 24	vs Colorado	8:00 PM
Sun, Feb 26	vs NY Islanders	3:00 PM
Tue, Feb 28	vs Los Angeles	8:00 PM
Fri, Mar 3	@ Edmonton	9:00 PM
Sat, Mar 4	vs Edmonton	7:00 PM
Mon, Mar 6	vs San Jose	7:30 PM
Wed, Mar 8	vs Minnesota	7:30 PM
Sat, Mar 11	@ Florida	7:00 PM
Sun, Mar 12	@ Tampa Bay	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 14	@ Carolina	7:00 PM
Thu, Mar 16	vs Boston	8:00 PM
Sat, Mar 18	@ Nashville	2:00 PM
Sun, Mar 19	@ St. Louis	7:00 PM
Tue, Mar 21	vs Arizona	8:00 PM
Thu, Mar 23	@ Anaheim	10:00 PM
Sat, Mar 25	@ Los Angeles	4:00 PM
Tue, Mar 28	@ San Jose	10:30 PM
Fri, Mar 31	vs Detroit	8:00 PM
Sun, Apr 2	vs New Jersey	7:00 PM
Wed, Apr 5	vs Calgary	7:30 PM
Sat, Apr 8	vs Nashville	7:00 PM
Mon, Apr 10	vs San Jose	7:00 PM
Tue, Apr 11	@ Minnesota	8:00 PM
Thu, Apr 13	@ Colorado	9:00 PM

PIERRE-LUC
DUBOIS

TERRENCE LEE-USA TODAY SPORTS

2021-22 FINAL STANDINGS

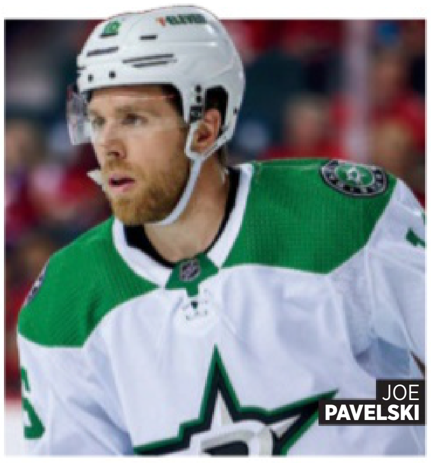
Total NHL Games: 1,312 **Total NHL Goals:** 8,150 **NHL Avg. Goals/Game:** 6.21

EASTERN CONFERENCE

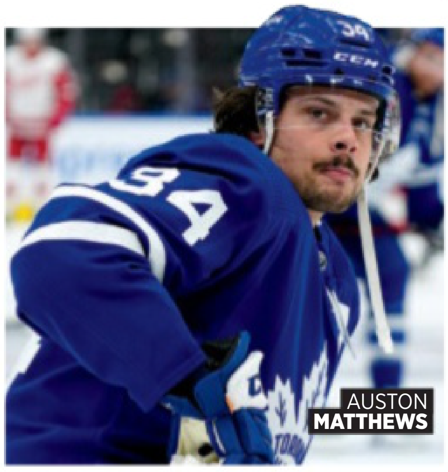
	OVERALL										HOME								ROAD							
	GP	W	L	OL	SL	ROW	GF	GA	P	PCT.	GP	W	L	OL	SL	GF	GA	P	GP	W	L	OL	SL	GF	GA	P
1. Florida	82	58	18	2	4	55	340	246	122	.744	41	34	7	0	0	192	119	68	41	24	11	2	4	148	127	54
2. Carolina	82	54	20	6	2	53	278	202	116	.707	41	29	8	2	2	135	89	62	41	25	12	4	0	143	113	54
3. Toronto	82	54	21	6	1	51	315	253	115	.701	41	31	8	2	0	154	106	64	41	23	13	4	1	161	147	51
4. NY Rangers	82	52	24	3	3	48	254	207	110	.671	41	27	10	1	3	132	96	58	41	25	14	2	0	122	111	52
5. Tampa Bay	82	51	23	3	5	49	287	233	110	.671	41	27	8	2	2	143	106	60	41	24	15	1	3	144	127	50
6. Boston	82	51	26	3	2	49	255	220	107	.652	41	26	13	2	0	132	114	54	41	25	13	1	2	123	106	53
7. Pittsburgh	82	46	25	4	7	43	272	229	103	.628	41	23	13	2	3	146	123	51	41	23	12	2	4	126	106	52
8. Washington	82	44	26	9	3	39	275	245	100	.610	41	19	16	4	2	131	129	44	41	25	10	5	1	144	116	56
9. NY Islanders	82	37	35	4	6	35	231	237	84	.512	41	20	16	2	3	120	108	45	41	17	19	2	3	111	129	39
10. Columbus	82	37	38	4	3	33	262	300	81	.494	41	21	15	2	3	141	142	47	41	16	23	2	0	121	158	34
11. Buffalo	82	32	39	8	3	29	232	290	75	.457	41	17	18	3	3	123	141	40	41	15	21	5	0	109	149	35
12. Detroit	82	32	40	8	2	29	230	312	74	.451	41	18	16	6	1	131	155	43	41	14	24	2	1	99	157	31
13. Ottawa	82	33	42	5	2	30	227	266	73	.445	41	15	22	2	2	111	133	34	41	18	20	3	0	116	133	39
14. New Jersey	82	27	46	4	5	24	248	307	63	.384	41	16	20	2	3	126	143	37	41	11	26	2	2	122	164	26
15. Philadelphia	82	25	46	7	4	24	211	298	61	.372	41	14	21	3	3	114	145	34	41	11	25	4	1	97	153	27
16. Montreal	82	22	49	9	2	19	221	319	55	.335	41	11	26	3	1	110	152	26	41	11	23	6	1	111	167	29

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	OVERALL										HOME								ROAD							
	GP	W	L	OL	SL	ROW	GF	GA	P	PCT.	GP	W	L	OL	SL	GF	GA	P	GP	W	L	OL	SL	GF	GA	P
1. Colorado	82	56	19	5	2	52	312	234	119	.726	41	32	5	2	2	172	107	68	41	24	14	3	0	140	127	51
2. Minnesota	82	53	22	3	4	48	310	253	113	.689	41	31	8	1	1	170	121	64	41	22	14	2	3	140	132	49
3. Calgary	82	50	21	9	2	48	293	208	111	.677	41	25	9	6	1	156	99	57	41	25	12	3	1	137	109	54
4. St. Louis	82	49	22	8	3	47	311	242	109	.665	41	26	10	4	1	156	115	57	41	23	12	4	2	155	127	52
5. Edmonton	82	49	27	5	1	44	290	252	104	.634	41	28	12	0	1	156	128	57	41	21	15	5	0	134	124	47
6. Los Angeles	82	44	27	7	4	40	239	236	99	.604	41	21	16	2	2	122	115	46	41	23	11	5	2	117	121	53
7. Dallas	82	46	30	4	2	41	238	246	98	.598	41	27	10	4	0	132	113	58	41	19	20	0	2	106	133	40
8. Nashville	82	45	30	5	2	41	266	252	97	.591	41	25	14	2	0	130	112	52	41	20	16	3	2	136	140	45
9. Vegas	82	43	31	4	4	39	266	248	94	.573	41	22	15	2	2	139	122	48	41	21	16	2	2	127	126	46
10. Vancouver	82	40	30	7	5	37	249	236	92	.561	41	20	14	5	2	127	109	47	41	20	16	2	3	122	127	45
11. Winnipeg	82	39	32	7	4	37	252	257	89	.543	41	23	15	2	1	141	116	49	41	16	17	5	3	111	141	40
12. San Jose	82	32	37	10	3	29	214	264	77	.470	41	18	18	4	1	107	103	41	41	14	19	6	2	107	161	36
13. Anaheim	82	31	37	9	5	27	232	271	76	.463	41	17	19	4	1	115	124	39	41	14	18	5	4	117	147	37
14. Chicago	82	28	42	10	2	22	219	291	68	.415	41	14	21	5	1	111	150	34	41	14	21	5	1	108	141	34
15. Seattle	82	27	49	5	1	24	216	285	60	.366	41	16	22	3	0	110	144	35	41	11	27	2	1	106	141	25
16. Arizona	82	25	50	3	4	24	207	313	57	.348	41	11	27	2	1	103	155	35	41	14	23	1	3	104	158	22


JOE **PAVELSKI**

JACCOB **SLAVIN**


AUSTON **MATTHEWS**

TEAM PENALTIES

	PIM	BMI	AVG.
1. Dallas	551	5	6.7
2. Pittsburgh	566	5	6.9
3. St. Louis	611	7	7.5
4. Vegas	624	4	7.6
5. Washington	631	9	7.7
6. Los Angeles	635	6	7.7
7. Columbus	635	5	7.7
8. Chicago	646	12	7.9
9. Vancouver	655	8	8.0
10. Edmonton	666	10	8.1
11. Buffalo	667	6	8.1
12. New Jersey	668	12	8.1
13. NY Rangers	675	5	8.2
14. Seattle	700	7	8.5
15. Toronto	702	15	8.6
16. Winnipeg	722	7	8.8
17. San Jose	725	11	8.8
18. NY Islanders	729	7	8.9
19. Detroit	733	6	8.9
20. Philadelphia	739	7	9.0
21. Colorado	742	9	9.0
22. Calgary	744	12	9.1
23. Carolina	758	14	9.2
24. Anaheim	759	7	9.3
25. Boston	809	8	9.9
26. Ottawa	822	7	10.0
27. Florida	832	5	10.1
28. Montreal	836	11	10.2
29. Arizona	840	6	10.2
30. Minnesota	882	10	10.8
31. Tampa Bay	901	11	11.0
32. Nashville	1035	10	12.6

BMI: Bench penalty minutes
NHL PIM: 23,240

PENALTY KILL

	SH	PPGA	PCT.
1. Carolina	276	33	88.0
2. San Jose	223	33	85.2
3. Pittsburgh	212	33	84.4
4. NY Islanders	215	34	84.2
5. St. Louis	220	35	84.1
6. Calgary	250	42	83.2
7. NY Rangers	226	40	82.3
8. Toronto	234	42	82.1
9. Boston	262	49	81.3
10. Anaheim	224	43	80.8
11. Tampa Bay	252	49	80.6
12. Washington	225	44	80.4
13. Ottawa	249	49	80.3
14. New Jersey	212	42	80.2
15. Colorado	236	48	79.7
16. Florida	259	53	79.5
17. Edmonton	252	52	79.4
18. Nashville	284	59	79.2
19. Dallas	219	46	79.0
20. Columbus	238	51	78.6
21. Vegas	208	47	77.4
22. Los Angeles	227	53	76.7
23. Buffalo	212	50	76.4
24. Chicago	223	53	76.2
25. Minnesota	264	63	76.1
26. Philadelphia	235	57	75.7
27. Montreal	274	67	75.6
28. Arizona	256	64	75.0
29. Winnipeg	232	58	75.0
30. Vancouver	231	58	74.9
31. Seattle	223	56	74.9
32. Detroit	225	59	73.8

SH: Shorthanded situations
PPGA: Power-play goals allowed
NHL Total SH: 7,578 **NHL PP Kills:** 6,016

POWER PLAY

	ADV	PPG	PCT.
1. Toronto	231	63	27.3
2. St. Louis	241	65	27.0
3. Edmonton	235	61	26.0
4. NY Rangers	218	55	25.2
5. Florida	262	64	24.4
6. Nashville	258	63	24.4
7. Colorado	279	67	24.0
8. Tampa Bay	259	62	23.9
9. Vancouver	247	58	23.5
10. Calgary	236	54	22.9
11. Dallas	241	54	22.4
12. NY Islanders	208	46	22.1
13. Carolina	232	51	22.0
14. Anaheim	219	48	21.9
15. Boston	236	50	21.2
16. Buffalo	222	47	21.2
17. Winnipeg	247	52	21.1
18. Minnesota	258	53	20.5
19. Pittsburgh	248	50	20.2
20. Ottawa	243	47	19.3
21. Chicago	245	47	19.2
22. San Jose	216	41	19.0
23. Washington	256	48	18.8
24. Columbus	220	41	18.6
25. Vegas	212	39	18.4
26. Detroit	227	37	16.3
27. Los Angeles	248	40	16.1
28. New Jersey	225	35	15.6
29. Seattle	220	32	14.6
30. Arizona	202	28	13.9
31. Montreal	248	34	13.7
32. Philadelphia	239	30	12.6

Adv.: Advantages
PPG: Power-play goals
NHL PP: 7,578 **NHL PP goals:** 1,562

OVERALL STANDINGS

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	ROW	P
1. Florida	82	58	18	2	4	55	122
2. Colorado	82	56	19	5	2	52	119
3. Carolina	82	54	20	6	2	53	116
4. Toronto	82	54	21	6	1	51	115
5. Minnesota	82	53	22	3	4	48	113
6. Calgary	82	50	21	9	2	48	111
7. NY Rangers	82	52	24	3	3	48	110
8. Tampa Bay	82	51	23	3	5	49	110
9. St. Louis	82	49	22	8	3	47	109
10. Boston	82	51	26	3	2	49	107
11. Edmonton	82	49	27	5	1	44	104
12. Pittsburgh	82	46	25	4	7	43	103
13. Washington	82	44	26	9	3	39	100
14. Los Angeles	82	44	27	7	4	40	99
15. Dallas	82	46	30	4	2	41	98
16. Nashville	82	45	30	5	2	41	97
17. Vegas	82	43	31	4	4	39	94
18. Vancouver	82	40	30	7	5	37	92
19. Winnipeg	82	39	32	7	4	37	89
20. NY Islanders	82	37	35	4	6	35	84
21. Columbus	82	37	38	4	3	33	81
22. San Jose	82	32	37	10	3	29	77
23. Anaheim	82	31	37	9	5	27	76
24. Buffalo	82	32	39	8	3	29	75
25. Detroit	82	32	40	8	2	29	74
26. Ottawa	82	33	42	5	2	30	73
27. Chicago	82	28	42	10	2	22	68
28. New Jersey	82	27	46	4	5	24	63
29. Philadelphia	82	25	46	7	4	24	61
30. Seattle	82	27	49	5	1	24	60
31. Arizona	82	25	50	3	4	24	57
32. Montreal	82	22	49	9	2	19	55

DIVISION STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OL	SL	ROW	P
Florida	82	58	18	2	4	55	122
Toronto	82	54	21	6	1	51	115
Tampa Bay	82	51	23	3	5	49	110
Boston	82	51	26	3	2	49	107
Buffalo	82	32	39	8	3	29	75
Detroit	82	32	40	8	2	29	74
Ottawa	82	33	42	5	2	30	73
Montreal	82	22	49	9	2	19	55
METROPOLITAN	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**SL**	**ROW**	**P**
Carolina	82	54	20	6	2	53	116
NY Rangers	82	52	24	3	3	48	110
Pittsburgh	82	46	25	4	7	43	103
Washington	82	44	26	9	3	39	100
NY Islanders	82	37	35	4	6	35	84
Columbus	82	37	38	4	3	33	81
New Jersey	82	27	46	4	5	24	63
Philadelphia	82	25	46	7	4	24	61

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OL	SL	ROW	P
Colorado	82	56	19	5	2	52	119
Minnesota	82	53	22	3	4	48	113
St. Louis	82	49	22	8	3	47	109
Dallas	82	46	30	4	2	41	98
Nashville	82	45	30	5	2	41	97
Winnipeg	82	39	32	7	4	37	89
Chicago	82	28	42	10	2	22	68
Arizona	82	25	50	3	4	24	57
PACIFIC	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**SL**	**ROW**	**P**
Calgary	82	50	21	9	2	48	111
Edmonton	82	49	27	5	1	44	104
Los Angeles	82	44	27	7	4	40	99
Vegas	82	43	31	4	4	39	94
Vancouver	82	40	30	7	5	37	92
San Jose	82	32	37	10	3	29	77
Anaheim	82	31	37	9	5	27	76
Seattle	82	27	49	5	1	24	60

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

TEAM	2020-21	2021-22
1. Tampa Bay	3,276 (22)	19,092
2. Washington	2,133 (6)	18,573
3. Minnesota	3,025 (12)	18,542
4. Nashville	0 (0)	18,495
5. Chicago	3,869 (2)	18,489
6. Vegas	4,362 (17)	18,100
7. Dallas	4,341 (28)	17,896
8. Boston	2,331 (17)	17,850
9. St. Louis	0 (0)	17,716
10. Pittsburgh	3,549 (20)	17,684
11. Colorado	4,041 (7)	17,498
12. Vancouver	0 (0)	17,285
13. Carolina	4,340 (20)	17,210
14. Seattle	N/A	17,151
15. Detroit	0 (0)	16,984
16. NY Islanders	1,371 (14)	16,942
17. NY Rangers	1,772 (18)	16,839
18. Philadelphia	3,058 (18)	16,540
19. Columbus	3,967 (16)	16,237
20. Toronto	0 (0)	15,586
21. Montreal	0 (0)	15,495
22. Edmonton	0 (0)	14,927
23. Los Angeles	1,738 (8)	14,828
24. Florida	4,205 (27)	14,811
25. Calgary	0 (0)	14,284
26. Anaheim	1,717 (5)	13,083
27. New Jersey	2,894 (18)	12,744
28. Winnipeg	0 (0)	12,716
29. San Jose	1,102 (7)	12,573
30. Arizona	3,185 (28)	11,601
31. Buffalo	0 (0)	9,997
32. Ottawa	0 (0)	9,155

(number of games with spectators in parenthesis)

PAVELSKI+SLAVIN: SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS; MATTHEWS: JOHN E. SOKOLOWSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS

CONNOR
MCDAVID

ANDREI
VASILEVSKIY

LEADING SCORERS

	GP	G	A	P
1. Connor McDavid, Edm	80	44	79	123
2. Johnny Gaudreau, Cgy	82	40	75	115
3. Jonathan Huberdeau, Fla	80	30	85	115
4. Leon Draisaitl, Edm	80	55	55	110
5. Kirill Kaprizov, Min	81	47	61	108
6. Auston Matthews, Tor	73	60	46	106
7. Steven Stamkos, TB	81	42	64	106
8. Matthew Tkachuk, Cgy	82	42	62	104
9. J.T. Miller, Van	80	32	67	99
10. Mitch Marner, Tor	72	35	62	97
11. Roman Josi, Nsh	80	23	73	96
12. Artemi Panarin, NYR	75	22	74	96
13. Kyle Connor, Wpg	79	47	46	93
14. Mikko Rantanen, Col	75	36	56	92
15. Patrick Kane, Chi	78	26	66	92
16. Alex Ovechkin, Wsh	77	50	40	90
17. Aleksander Barkov, Fla	67	39	49	88
18. Nathan MacKinnon, Col	65	32	56	88
19. Nazem Kadri, Col	71	28	59	87
20. Matt Duchene, Nsh	78	43	43	86
21. Cale Makar, Col	77	28	58	86
22. Kevin Fiala, Min	82	33	52	85
23. Victor Hedman, TB	82	20	65	85
24. Filip Forsberg, Nsh	69	42	42	84
25. Jake Guentzel, Pit	76	40	44	84

DEFENSEMEN

	GP	G	A	P
1. Roman Josi, Nsh	80	23	73	96
2. Cale Makar, Col	77	28	58	86
3. Victor Hedman, TB	82	20	65	85
4. Adam Fox, NYR	78	11	63	74
5. John Carlson, Wsh	78	17	54	71
6. Kris Letang, Pit	78	10	58	68
7. Morgan Rielly, Tor	82	10	58	68
8. Quinn Hughes, Van	76	8	60	68
9. Aaron Ekblad, Fla	61	15	42	57
10. Devon Toews, Col	66	13	44	57
11. Charlie McAvoy, Bos	78	10	46	56
12. Brent Burns, SJ	82	10	44	54
13. Rasmus Dahlin, Buf	80	13	40	53
14. Shea Theodore, Veg	78	14	38	52
15. Shayne Gostisbehere, Ari	82	14	37	51
16. Noah Dobson, NYI	80	13	38	51
17. Tony DeAngelo, Car	64	10	41	51
18. Seth Jones, Chi	78	5	46	51
19. Moritz Seider, Det	82	7	43	50
20. Rasmus Andersson, Cgy	82	4	46	50
21. Zach Werenski, Clb	68	11	37	48
22. Noah Hanifin, Cgy	81	10	38	48
23. Justin Faulk, StL	76	16	31	47
24. John Klingberg, Dal	74	6	41	47
25. Damon Severson, NJ	80	11	35	46

ROOKIES

	GP	G	A	P
1. Michael Bunting, Tor	79	23	40	63
2. Trevor Zegras, Ana	75	23	38	61
3. Lucas Raymond, Det	82	23	34	57
4. Moritz Seider, Det	82	7	43	50
5. Anton Lundell, Fla	65	18	26	44
6. Cole Caufield, Mtl	67	23	20	43
7. Dawson Mercer, NJ	82	17	25	42
8. Tanner Jeannot, Nsh	81	24	17	41
9. Seth Jarvis, Car	68	17	23	40
10. Matt Boldy, Min	47	15	24	39
11. Rem Pitlick, Min/Mtl	66	15	22	37
12. Alex Newhook, Col	71	13	20	33
13. Philip Tomasino, Nsh	76	11	21	32
14. Jamie Drysdale, Ana	81	4	28	32
15. Cole Sillinger, Clb	79	16	15	31
16. Alexandre Carrier, Nsh	77	3	27	30
17. Arthur Kaliyev, LA	80	14	13	27
18. Sean Durzi, LA	64	3	24	27
19. Vasily Podkolzin, Van	79	14	12	26
20. Timothy Liljegren, Tor	61	5	18	23
21. Jonathan Dahlen, SJ	61	12	10	22
22. Taylor Raddysh, TB/Chi	74	11	11	22
23. Peyton Krebs, Veg/Buf	57	7	15	22
24. Ryan McLeod, Edm	71	9	12	21
25. Connor McMichael, Wsh	68	9	9	18

WINS

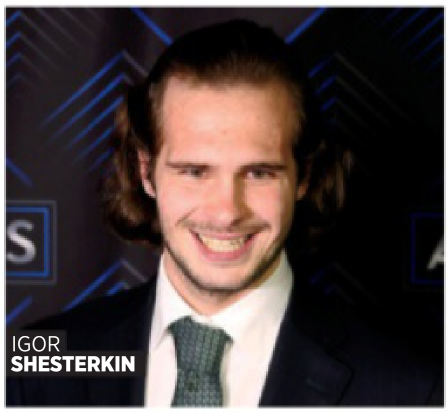
	GP	GAA	SP	WINS
1. Andrei Vasilevskiy, TB	63	2.49	.916	39
2. Sergei Bobrovsky, Fla	54	2.67	.913	39
3. Juuse Saros, Nsh	67	2.64	.918	38
4. Jacob Markstrom, Cgy	63	2.22	.922	37
5. Darcy Kuemper, Col	57	2.54	.921	37
6. Igor Shesterkin, NYR	53	2.07	.935	36
7. Frederik Andersen, Car	52	2.17	.922	35
8. Tristan Jarry, Pit	58	2.42	.919	34
9. Thatcher Demko, Van	64	2.72	.915	33
10. Cam Talbot, Min	49	2.76	.911	32
11. Jack Campbell, Tor	49	2.64	.914	31
12. Jake Oettinger, Dal	48	2.53	.914	30
13. Connor Hellebuyck, Wpg	66	2.97	.910	29
14. Marc-Andre Fleury, Chi/Min	56	2.90	.908	28
15. Elvis Merzlikins, Clb	59	3.22	.907	27
16. Mikko Koskinen, Edm	45	3.10	.903	27
17. Ilya Sorokin, NYI	52	2.40	.925	26
18. Linus Ullmark, Bos	41	2.45	.917	26
19. Ville Husso, StL	40	2.56	.919	25
20. Jeremy Swayman, Bos	41	2.41	.914	23
21. Jonathan Quick, LA	46	2.59	.910	23
22. Robin Lehner, Veg	44	2.83	.907	23
23. Ilya Samsonov, Wsh	44	3.02	.896	23
24. Anton Forsberg, Ott	46	2.82	.917	22
25. Cal Petersen, LA	37	2.89	.895	20

AWARD WINNERS & ALL-STARS

NHL AWARDS
Hart Trophy (Most Valuable Player)
Auston Matthews, Toronto
Ted Lindsay Award (MVP voted by players)
Auston Matthews, Toronto
Art Ross Trophy (Top scorer)
Connor McDavid, Edmonton
Maurice Richard Trophy (Top goal-scorer)
Auston Matthews, Toronto
Calder Trophy (Rookie of the year)
Moritz Seider, Detroit
Norris Trophy (Outstanding defenseman)
Cale Makar, Colorado
Vezina Trophy (Outstanding goaltender)
Igor Shesterkin, NY Rangers
Lady Byng Trophy (Most sportsmanlike)
Kyle Connor, Winnipeg
Selke Trophy (Best defensive forward)
Patrice Bergeron, Boston
Jack Adams Award (Coach of the year)
Darryl Sutter, Calgary
Jennings Trophy (Lowest GAA)
Frederik Andersen & Antti Raanta, Carolina
Conn Smythe Trophy (Playoff MVP)
Cale Makar, Colorado
Masterton Trophy (Perseverance)
Carey Price, Montreal
King Clancy Trophy (Humanitarian)
P.K. Subban, New Jersey

FIRST-TEAM ALL-STARS
C Auston Matthews, Toronto
LW Johnny Gaudreau, Calgary
RW Mitch Marner, Toronto
D Cale Makar, Colorado
D Roman Josi, Nashville
G Igor Shesterkin, NY Rangers

SECOND-TEAM ALL-STARS
C Connor McDavid, Edmonton
LW Jonathan Huberdeau, Florida
RW Matthew Tkachuk, Calgary
D Victor Hedman, Tampa Bay
D Charlie McAvoy, Boston
G Jacob Markstrom, Calgary


IGOR
SHESTERKIN

THE HOCKEY NEWS AWARDS

Most Valuable Player
Connor McDavid, Edmonton
Best Player
Connor McDavid, Edmonton
Best Defenseman
Roman Josi, Nashville
Best Goaltender
Igor Shesterkin, New York Rangers
Best Rookie
Moritz Seider, Detroit
Best Defensive Defenseman
Jaccob Slavin, Carolina
Comeback Player
Matt Duchene, Nashville
Breakout Player
Igor Shesterkin, New York Rangers
Toughest Player
Ryan Reaves, New York Rangers
Top Penalty-Killer
Jaccob Slavin, Carolina
Best Coach
Gerard Gallant, New York Rangers
Best General Manager
Joe Sakic, Colorado

AWARDS & ALL-STAR VOTING

NHL AWARDS VOTING

HART TROPHY 1. Auston Matthews, Tor 1630 (119-49-15-6-4) 2. Connor McDavid, Edm 1111 (29-66-56-20-19) 3. Igor Shesterkin, NYR 738 (24-26-41-29-24) 4. Johnny Gaudreau, Cgy 617 (3-19-44-66-36) 5. Jonathan Huberdeau, Fla 506 (13-21-21-31-31) 6. Roman Josi, Nsh 241 (5-8-10-19-28) 7. Kirill Kaprizov, Min 126 (2-4-4-13-19) 8. Cale Makar, Col 48 (0-1-3-5-11) 9. Leon Draisaitl, Edm 28 (0-1-1-3-7) 10. Alex Ovechkin, Wsh 10 (0-0-0-2-4)

NORRIS TROPHY 1. Cale Makar, Col 1631 (92-98-5-0-0) 2. Roman Josi, Nsh 1606 (98-76-17-3-0) 3. Victor Hedman, TB 940 (4-14-142-30-2) 4. Charlie McAvoy, Bos 358 (1-7-22-55-24) 5. Adam Fox, NYR 248 (0-0-4-61-45) 6. Aaron Ekblad, Fla 74 (0-0-2-10-34) 7. Kris Letang, Pit 73 (0-0-0-18-19) 8. Devon Toews, Col 38 (0-0-1-5-18) 9. Jaccob Slavin, Car 38 (0-0-1-3-24) 10. John Carlson, Wsh 28 (0-0-0-4-16)

VEZINA TROPHY 1. Igor Shesterkin, NYR 154 (29-3-0) 2. Jacob Markstrom, Cgy 53 (0-14-11) 3. Juuse Saros, Nsh 32 (0-9-5) 4. Frederik Andersen, Car 21 (1-3-7) 5. Andrei Vasilevskiy, TB 14 (1-2-3) 6. Ilya Sorokin, NYI 11 (1-1-3) T-7. Thatcher Demko, Van 1 (0-0-1) Ville Husso, StL 1 (0-0-1) Tristan Jarry, Pit (0-0-1)

CALDER TROPHY 1. Moritz Seider, Det 1853 (170-18-3-4-0) 2. Trevor Zegras, Ana 1191 (15-100-57-18-2) 3. Michael Bunting, Tor 877 (7-51-65-34-23) 4. Lucas Raymond, Det 499 (1-10-40-61-36) 5. Jeremy Swayman, Bos 210 (2-3-14-22-33) 6. Anton Lundell, Fla 185 (0-4-7-29-35) 7. Tanner Jeannot, Nsh 153 (0-9-4-11-37) 8. Matt Boldy, Min 38 (0-0-2-6-10) 9. Cole Caufield, Mtl 31 (0-0-1-6-8) 10. Alexandre Carrier, Nsh 14 (0-0-2-1-1)

JACK ADAMS AWARD 1. Darryl Sutter, Cgy 353 (54-22-17) 2. Andrew Brunette, Fla 249 (31-26-16) 3. Gerard Gallant, NYR 142 (12-21-19) 4. Dean Evason, Min 111 (7-20-16) 5. Jared Bednar, Col 65 (6-8-11) 6. Todd McLellan, LA 65 (5-8-16) 7. Rod Brind'Amour, Car 41 (2-7-10) 8. Mike Sullivan, Pit 19 (2-3-0) 9. John Hynes, Nsh 14 (1-2-3) 10. Jon Cooper, TB 12 (1-1-4)

FRANK SELKE TROPHY 1. Patrice Bergeron, Bos 1808 (161-20-11-0-3) 2. Elias Lindholm, Cgy 878 (21-46-50-28-12) 3. Aleksander Barkov, Fla 736 (9-52-40-22-16) 4. Ryan O'Reilly, StL 415 (1-16-28-39-36) 5. Anthony Cirelli, TB 385 (0-28-19-22-28) 6. Anze Kopitar, LA 163 (3-9-6-10-10) 7. Joel Eriksson-Ek, Min 113 (0-7-4-9-17) 8. Phillip Danault, LA 78 (0-3-5-8-8) 9. Marcus Foligno, Min 77 (0-3-5-7-10) 10. Auston Matthews, Tor 70 (0-2-6-4-14)

LADY BYNG TROPHY 1. Kyle Connor, Wpg 1527 (122-28-17-6-8) 2. Jaccob Slavin, Car 904 (31-58-25-18-9) 3. Jared Spurgeon, Min 272 (6-10-17-15-12) 4. Mitch Marner, Tor 265 (2-14-16-18-13) 5. Mika Zibanejad, NYR 246 (0-17-16-11-14) 6. Joe Pavelski, Dal 149 (4-5-9-6-11) 7. Jack Hughes, NJ 148 (5-6-7-5-6) 8. Aleksander Barkov, Fla 144 (2-9-7-6-8) 9. Johnny Gaudreau, Cgy 124 (4-6-2-8-8) 10. Auston Matthews, Tor 123 (3-4-6-10-5)

NHL ALL-STAR VOTING

GOALTENDER 1. Igor Shesterkin, NYR 952 (188-4-0) 2. Jacob Markstrom, Cgy 315 (1-87-49) 3. Frederik Andersen, Car 185 (0-46-47) 4. Juuse Saros, Nsh 107 (0-23-38) 5. Ilya Sorokin, NYI 72 (0-17-21) 6. Andrei Vasilevskiy, TB 71 (3-12-20) 7. Darcy Kuemper, Col 9 (0-0-9) 8. Thatcher Demko, Van 6 (0-1-3) T-9. Sergei Bobrovsky, Fla 4 (0-1-1) Ville Husso, StL 4 (0-1-1)

DEFENSE 1. Cale Makar, Col 950 (187-5-0) 2. Roman Josi, Nsh 920 (173-18-1) 3. Victor Hedman, TB 599 (17-171-1) 4. Charlie McAvoy, Bos 286 (7-73-32) 5. Adam Fox, NYR 276 (0-68-72) 6. Aaron Ekblad, Fla 96 (0-13-57) 7. Kris Letang, Pit 89 (0-16-41) 8. Devon Toews, Col 65 (0-5-50) 9. John Carlson, Wsh 65 (0-4-53) 10. Jaccob Slavin, Car 53 (0-4-41)

CENTER 1. Auston Matthews, Tor 805 (122-63-6) 2. Connor McDavid, Edm 709 (70-119-2) 3. Leon Draisaitl, Edm 130 (0-7-109) 4. Steven Stamkos, TB 42 (0-2-36) 5. Aleksander Barkov, Fla 19 (0-1-16) 6. Nathan MacKinnon, Col 8 (0-0-8) T-7. Patrice Bergeron, Bos 5 (0-0-5) J.T. Miller, Van 5 (0-0-5) 9. Sidney Crosby, Pit 4 (0-0-4) 10. Elias Lindholm, Cgy 1 (0-0-1)

LEFT WING 1. Johnny Gaudreau, Cgy 779 (114-67-8) 2. Jonathan Huberdeau, Fla 584 (63-76-41) 3. Kirill Kaprizov, Min 297 (12-42-111) 4. Alex Ovechkin, Wsh 27 (1-1-19) 5. Chris Kreider, NYR 17 (2-1-4) 6. Jason Robertson, Dal 11 (0-3-2) 7. Artemi Panarin, NYR 6 (0-1-3) 8. Kyle Connor, Wpg 5 (0-1-2) T-9. Filip Forsberg, Nsh 1 (0-1-1) Matthew Tkachuk, Cgy (0-1-1)

RIGHT WING 1. Mitch Marner, Tor 697 (88-79-20) 2. Matthew Tkachuk, Cgy 543 (86-33-14) 3. Mikko Rantanen, Col 341 (14-60-91) 4. Patrick Kane, Chi 48 (0-6-30) 5. David Pastrnak, Bos 37 (0-7-16) 6. Vladimir Tarasenko, StL 25 (1-4-8) 7. Matt Duchene, Nsh 15 (1-2-4) 8. Nikita Kucherov, TB 14 (2-0-4) 9. Joe Pavelski, Dal 4 (0-1-1) 10. Timo Meier, SJ 2 (0-0-2)

MCDAVID: SERGEI BELSKI-USA TODAY SPORTS; VASILEVSKIY: JAMES CAREY LAUDER-USA TODAY SPORTS; SHESTERKIN: MARK J. REBILAS-USA TODAY SPORTS

The 2022 NHL draft was held July 7 and 8 at the Bell Centre in Montreal. Listed below are each team's picks including round/overall, player name, position, and 2021-22 team and league.

FIRST ROUND DRAFT PICKS

NO.	TEAM	PLAYER	POS.	HT./WT.	2021-22 TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
1.	Mtl	Juraj Slafkovsky	LW	6-4/229	TPS (Fin)	31	5	5	10	33
2.	NJ	Simon Nemec	D	6-0/199	Nitra (Svk)	39	1	25	26	20
3.	Ari	Logan Cooley	C	5-10/180	USA U18 (NTDP)	51	27	48	75	67
4.	Sea	Shane Wright	C	6-0/199	Kingston (OHL)	63	32	62	94	22
5.	Phi	Cutter Gauthier	LW	6-2/200	USA U18 (NTDP)	54	34	31	65	49
6.	Clb	David Jiricek	D	6-3/189	Plzen (Cze)	29	5	6	11	49
7.	Chi	Kevin Korchinski	D	6-2/185	Seattle (WHL)	67	4	61	65	40
8.	Det	Marco Kasper	C	6-1/187	Rogle (Swe)	46	7	4	11	17
9.	Buf	Matthew Savoie	C	5-9/170	Winnipeg (WHL)	65	35	55	90	32
10.	Ana	Pavel Mintyukov	D	6-2/194	Saginaw (OHL)	67	17	45	62	28
11.	Ari	Conor Geekie	C	6-4/190	Winnipeg (WHL)	63	24	46	70	49
12.	Clb	Denton Mateychuk	D	5-10/194	Moose Jaw (WHL)	65	13	51	64	15
13.	Chi	Frank Nazar	C	5-10/180	USA U18 (NTDP)	56	28	42	70	20
14.	Wpg	Rutger McGroarty	RW	6-1/204	USA U18 (NTDP)	54	35	34	69	65
15.	Van	Jonathan Lekkerimaki	RW	5-10/171	Djurgarden (Swe)	26	7	2	9	0
16.	Buf	Noah Ostlund	C	5-10/164	Djurgarden (Swe Jr.)	32	9	33	42	6
17.	Nsh	Joakim Kemell	RW	5-10/185	JYP (Fin)	39	15	8	23	2
18.	Dal	Lian Bichsel	D	6-6/225	Leksand (Swe)	29	1	2	3	16
19.	Min	Liam Ohgren	LW	6-1/201	Djurgarden (Swe Jr.)	30	33	25	58	6
20.	Wsh	Ivan Miroshnichenko	LW	6-1/185	Omsk (Rus2)	31	10	6	16	6
21.	Pit	Owen Pickering	D	6-4/180	Swift Current (WHL)	62	9	24	33	39
22.	Ana	Nathan Gaucher	C	6-3/207	Quebec (QMJHL)	66	31	26	57	74
23.	StL	Jimmy Snuggerud	RW	6-1/188	USA U18 (NTDP)	59	24	39	63	32
24.	Min	Danila Yurov	RW	6-1/178	Magnitogorsk (KHL)	21	0	0	0	2
25.	Chi	Sam Rinzel	D	6-4/180	Chaska (USHS-MN)	27	9	29	38	22
26.	Mtl	Filip Mesar	RW	5-10/174	Poprad (Svk)	37	8	8	16	8
27.	SJ	Filip Bystedt	C	6-4/204	Linkoping (Swe Jr.)	40	16	33	49	40
28.	Buf	Jiri Kulich	C	5-11/178	Karlovy Vary (Cze)	49	9	5	14	4
29.	Ari	Maveric Lamoureux	D	6-7/199	Drummondville (QMJHL)	54	4	20	24	69
30.	Wpg	Brad Lambert	C	6-0/183	JYP/Pelicans (Fin)	49	4	6	10	43
31.	TB	Isaac Howard	LW	5-10/180	USA U18 (NTDP)	60	33	49	82	43
32.	Edm	Reid Schaefer	LW	6-3/213	Seattle (WHL)	66	32	26	58	88

ANAHEIM DUCKS
1/10. Pavel Mintyukov, D, Saginaw (OHL)
1/22. Nathan Gaucher, C, Quebec (QMJHL)
2/42. Noah Warren, D, Gatineau (QMJHL)
2/53. Tristan Luneau, D, Gatineau (QMJHL)
4/107. Ben King, C, Red Deer (WHL)
5/139. Connor Hvidston, LW, Swift Current (WHL)
5/154. Michael Callow, RW, St. Sebastian's (USHL)
6/178. Vyacheslav Buteyets, G, Chelyabinsk (Rus2)

ARIZONA COYOTES
1/3. Logan Cooley, C, USA U18 (NDTP)
1/11. Conor Geekie, C, Winnipeg (WHL)
1/29. Maveric Lamoureux, D, Drummondville (QMJHL)
2/36. Artem Duda, D, Krasnaya Armiya Moscow (Rus Jr.)
2/43. Julian Lutz, LW, Munchen (Ger)
3/67. Miko Matikka, RW Jokerit (Fin Jr.)
3/94. Jeremy Langlois, D, Cape Breton (QMJHL)
5/131. Matthew Morden, D, St. Andrew's (High-ON)
6/163. Maksymilian Szuber, D, Munchen (Ger)
7/204. Adam Zlnka, RW, Sioux Falls (USHL)

BOSTON BRUINS
2/54. Matthew Poitras, C, Guelph (OHL)
4/117. Cole Spicer, C, USA U18 (NDTP)
4/119. Dans Locmelis, C, Lulea (Swe Jr.)
5/132. Frederic Brunet, D, Rimouski (QMJHL)
6/183. Reid Dyck, G, Swift Current (WHL)
7/200. Jackson Edward, D, London (OHL)

BUFFALO SABRES
1/9. Matthew Savoie, C, Winnipeg (WHL)
1/16. Noah Ostlund, C, Djurgarden (Swe. Jr)
1/28. Jiri Kulich, C, Karlovy Vary (Cze)
2/41. Topias Leinonen, G, JYP (Fin Jr.)
3/74. Viktor Neuchev, LW, Yekaterinburg (Rus Jr.)
4/106. Mats Lindgren, D, Kamloops (WHL)
5/134. Vsevolod Komarov, D, Quebec (QMJHL)
6/170. Jake Richard, RW, Muskegon (USHL)
6/187. Gustav Karlsson, C, Orebro (Swe Jr.)
7/202. Joel Ratkovic Berndtsson, RW, Frolunda (Swe Jr.)
7/211. Linus Sjodin, C, Rogle (Swe)

CALGARY FLAMES
2/59. Topi Ronni, C, Tappara (Fin Jr.)
5/155. Parker Bell, LW, Tri-City (WHL)
7/219. Cade Littler, C, Wenatchee (BCHL)

CAROLINA HURRICANES
2/60. Gleb Trikozov, LW, Omsk (Rus Jr.)
3/71. Alexander Perevalov, LW, Loko Yaroslavl (Rus Jr.)
4/101. Simon Forsmark, D, Orebro (Swe)
4/124. Cruz Lucius, C, USA U18 (NDTP)
5/156. Vladimir Grudinin, D, Kras. Arm. Moscow (Rus Jr.)
6/171. Jakub Vondras, G, Plzen (Cze Jr.)
7/205. Alexander Pelevin, D, Niz. Novgorod (Rus Jr.)

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS
1/7. Kevin Korchinski, D, Seattle (WHL)
1/13. Frank Nazar, C, USA U18 (NDTP)
1/25. Sam Rinzel, D, Chaska (High-MN)
2/39. Paul Ludwinski, C, Kingston (OHL)
2/57. Ryan Greene, C, Green Bay (USHL)
3/66. Gavin Hayes, LW, Flint (OHL)
3/81. Samuel Savoie, LW, Gatineau (QMJHL)
3/90. Aidan Thompson, C, Lincoln (USHL)
6/173. Dominic James, C, Minnesota-Duluth (NCHC)
6/188. Nils Juntorp, RW, HV71 (Swe Jr.)
7/199. Riku Tohila, C, JYP (Fin Jr.)

COLORADO AVALANCHE
6/193. Chris Romaine, D, Milton Academy (High-MA)
7/225. Ivan Zhigalov, G, Sherbrooke (QMJHL)

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS
1/6. David Jiricek, D, Plzen (Cze)
1/12. Denton Mateychuk, D, Moose Jaw (WHL)
2/44. Luca Del Bel Belluz, C, Mississauga (OHL)
3/96. Jordan Dumais, RW, Halifax (QMJHL)
4/109. Kirill Dolzhenkov, RW, Kras. Arm. Moscow (Rus Jr.)
5/138. Sergei Ivanov, G, SKA-1946 St. Petersburg (Rus2)
7/203. James Fisher, RW, Belmont Hill (High-MA)

DALLAS STARS
1/18. Lian Bichsel, D, Leksand (Swe)
2/50. Christian Kyrou, D, Erie (OHL)
3/83. George Fegaras, D, North York (OJHL)
4/115. Gavin White, D, Hamilton (OHL)
5/147. Maxim Mayorov, G, Togliatti (Rus Jr.)
6/179. Matthew Seminoff, RW, Kamloops (WHL)

DETROIT RED WINGS
1/8. Marco Kasper, C, Rogle (Swe)
2/40. Dylan James, LW, Sioux City (USHL)
2/52. Dmitri Buchelnikov, LW, SKA-1946 St. Pete. (Rus Jr.)
4/105. Anton Johansson, D, Leksand (Swe Jr.)
4/113. Amadeus Lombardi, C, Flint (OHL)
4/129. Maximilian Kilpinen, LW, Orebro (Swe Jr.)
5/137. Tnias Mathurin, D, North Bay (OHL)
7/201. Owen Mehlenbacher, C, Muskegon (USHL)
7/212. Brennan Ali, C, Avon Old Farms (High-CT)

EDMONTON OILERS
1/32. Reid Schaefer, LW, Seattle (WHL)
5/158. Samuel Jonsson, G, Brynas (Swe Jr.)
6/190. Nikita Yevseyev, D, Kazan (Rus2)
7/222. Joel Maatta, C, Vermont (HE)

FLORIDA PANTHERS
3/93. Marek Alscher, D, Portland (WHL)
4/125. Ludvig Jansson, D, Sodertalje (Swe2)
5/157. Sandis Vilmanis, D, Lulea (Swe Jr.)
6/186. Josh Davies, LW, Swift Current (WHL)
6/189. Tyler Muszelik, G, USA U18 (NDTP)
7/214. Liam Arnsby, C, North Bay (OHL)
7/221. Jack Devine, RW, Denver (NCHC)

LOS ANGELES KINGS
2/51. Jack Hughes, C, Northeastern (HE)
4/103. Kenny Connors, C, Dubuque (USHL)
4/116. Angus Booth, D, Shawinigan (QMJHL)
5/148. Otto Salin, D, HIFK (Fin Jr.)
6/169. Jared Wright, RW, Omaha (USHL)
6/180. Jack Sparkes, D, St. Michael's (OJHL)
7/215. Kaleb Lawrence, RW, Owen Sound (OHL)

MINNESOTA WILD
1/19. Liam Ohgren, LW, Djurgarden (Swe Jr.)
1/24. Danila Yurov, RW, Magnitogorsk (Rus)
2/47. Hunter Haight, C, Barrie (OHL)
2/56. Rieger Lorenz, LW, Okotoks (AJHL)
3/89. Michael Milne, LW, Winnipeg (WHL)
4/121. Ryan Healey, D, Sioux Falls (USHL)
5/153. David Spacek, D, Sherbrooke (QMJHL)
6/185. Servac Petrovsky, C, Owen Sound (OHL)

MONTREAL CANADIENS
1/1. Juraj Slafkovsky, LW, TPS (Fin)
1/26. Filip Mesar, RW, Poprad (Svk)
2/33. Owen Beck, C, Mississauga (OHL)
2/62. Lane Hutson, D, USA U18 (NDTP)
3/75. Vinzenz Rohrer, C, Ottawa (OHL)
3/92. Adam Engstrom, D, Djurgarden (Swe Jr.)
4/127. Cedrick Guindon, C, Owen Sound (OHL)
5/130. Jared Davidson, C, Seattle (WHL)
6/162. Emmett Croteau, G, Waterloo (USHL)
7/194. Petteri Nurmi, D, HPK (Fin)
7/216. Miguel Tourigny, D, Acadie-Bathurst (QMJHL)

NASHVILLE PREDATORS
1/17. Joakim Kemell, RW, JYP (Fin)
3/82. Adam Ingram, C, Youngstown (USHL)
3/84. Kasper Kulonummi, D, Jokerit (Fin Jr.)
4/114. Cole O'Hara, RW, Tri-City (USHL)
5/146. Graham Sward, D, Spokane (WHL)
7/201. Ben Strinden, C, Muskegon (USHL)

NEW JERSEY DEVILS
1/2. Simon Nemec, D, Nitra (Svk)
2/46. Seamus Casey, D, USA U18 (NDTP)
4/102. Tyler Brennan, G, Prince George (WHL)
4/110. Daniil Orlov, D, Sakhalin (Rus Jr.)
4/126. Charles Leddy, D, USA U18 (NDTP)
5/141. Petr Hauser, RW, Sparta (Cze Jr.)
6/166. Josh Filmon, LW, Swift Current (WHL)
7/198. Artem Barabosha, D, Kras. Arm. Moscow (Rus Jr.)

NEW YORK ISLANDERS
3/65. Calle Odelius, D, Djurgarden (Swe Jr.)
3/78. Quinn Finley, LW, Madison (USHL)
4/98. Isaiah George, D, London (OHL)
5/142. Matthew Maggio, RW, Windsor (OHL)
6/174. Daylan Kuefler, LW, Kamloops (WHL)

NEW YORK RANGERS
2/63. Adam Sykora, LW, Nitra (Svk)
3/97. Bryce McConnell-Barker, C, Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)
4/11. Noah Laba, C, Lincoln (USHL)
5/159. Vittorio Mancini, D, Nebraska-Omaha (NCHC)
5/161. Maxim Barbashev, LW, Moncton (QMJHL)
6/191. Zakary Karpa, C, Harvard (ECAC)

OTTAWA SENATORS
2/64. Filip Nordberg, D, Sodertalje (Swe Jr.)
3/72. Oskar Pettersson, RW, Rogle (Swe Jr.)
3/87. Tomas Hamara, D, Tappara (Fin Jr.)
4/104. Stephen Halliday, C, Dubuque (USHL)
5/136. Jorian Donovan, D, Hamilton (OHL)
5/143. Cameron O'Neill, RW, Mt. St. Charles (High-RI)
5/151. Kevin Reidler, G, AIK (Swe Jr.)
6/168. Theo Wallberg, D, Skelleftea (Swe Jr.)
7/206. Tyson Dyck, G, Cranbrook (BCHL)

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS
1/5. Cutter Gauthier, LW, USA U18 (NDTP)
3/69. Devin Kaplan, RW, USA U18 (NDTP)
5/133. Alex Bump, LW, Prior Lake (High-MN)
6/165. Hunter McDonald, D, Chicago (USHL)
7/197. Santeri Sulku, LW, Jokerit (Fin Jr.)
7/220. Alexis Gendron, RW, Blainville-Bois. (QMJHL)

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS
1/21. Owen Pickering, D, Swift Current (WHL)
4/118. Sergei Murashov, G, Loko-76 Yaroslavl (Rus Jr.)
5/150. Zam Plante, C, Hermantown (High-MN)
6/167. Nolan Collins, D, Sudbury (OHL)
6/182. Luke Devlin, C, St. Andrew's (High-ON)

SAN JOSE SHARKS
1/27. Filip Bystedt, C, Linkoping (Swe Jr.)
2/34. Cameron Lund, C, Green Bay (USHL)
2/45. Mattias Havelid, D, Linkoping (Swe Jr.)
3/76. Michael Fisher, D, St. Mark's (High-MA)
4/108. Mason Beaupit, G, Spokane (WHL)
5/140. Jake Furlong, D, Halifax (QMJHL)
6/172. Joey Muldowney, RW, Nichols (High-NY)
7/195. Eli Barnett, D, Victoria (BCHL)
7/217. Reese Laubach, C, Northstar U18 (High-MN)

SEATTLE KRAKEN
1/4. Shane Wright, C, Kingston (OHL)
2/35. Jagger Firkus, RW, Moose Jaw (WHL)
2/49. Jani Nyman, RW, Ilves (Fin)
2/58. Niklas Kokko, G, Karpat (Fin Jr.)
2/61. David Goyette, C, Sudbury (OHL)
3/68. Ty Nelson, D, North Bay (OHL)
3/91. Ben MacDonald, C, Noble & Greenough (High-MA)
4/100. Tyson Jugnauth, D, West Kelowna (BCHL)
4/123. Tucker Robertson, C, Peterborough (OHL)
6/164. Barrett Hall, C, Gentry (High-MN)
7/196. Kyle Jackson, C, North Bay (OHL)

ST. LOUIS BLUES
1/23. Jimmy Snuggerud, RW, USA U18 (NDTP)
3/73. Aleksanteri Kaskimaki, C, HIFK (Fin Jr.)
3/88. Michael Buchinger, D, Guelph (OHL)
4/120. Arseni Koromyslov, D, SKA-1946 St. Pete. (Rus Jr.)
5/152. Marc-Andre Gaudet, D, Acadie-Bathurst (QMJHL)
6/184. Landon Sim, RW, London (OHL)

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING
1/31. Isaac Howard, LW, USA U18 (NDTP)
3/86. Lucas Edmonds, RW, Kingston (OHL)
5/160. Nick Malik, G, Kookoo (Fin)
6/192. Connor Kurth, RW, Dubuque (USHL)
7/223. Dyllan Gill, D, Rouyn-Noranda (QMJHL)
7/224. Klavs Veinbergs, LW, Riga (Rus Jr.)

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS
2/38. Fraser Minten, C, Kamloops (WHL)
3/95. Nicholas Moldenhauer, RW, Chicago (USHL)
4/122. Dennis Hildeby, G, Farjestad (Swe Jr.)
5/135. Nikita Grebenkin, RW, Magnitogorsk (Rus Jr.)
7/218. Brandon Lisowsky, LW, Saskatoon (WHL)

VANCOUVER CANUCKS
1/15. Jonathan Lekkerimaki, RW, Djurgarden (Swe)
3/80. Elias Pettersson, D, Orebro (Swe Jr.)
4/112. Daimon Gardner, C, Warroad (High-MN)
5/144. Ty Young, G, Prince George (WHL)
6/176. Jackson Dorrington, D, Des Moines (USHL)
7/208. Kirill Kudryavtsev, D, Sault Ste. Marie (OHL)

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS
2/48. Matyas Sapovaliv, C, Saginaw (OHL)
3/79. Jordan Gustafson, C, Seattle (WHL)
4/128. Cameron Whitehead, G, Lincoln (USHL)
5/145. Patrick Guay, C, Charlottetown (QMJHL)
6/177. Ben Hemmerling, RW, Everett (WHL)
7/209. Abram Wiebe, D, Chilliwack (BCHL)

WASHINGTON CAPITALS
1/20. Ivan Miroshnichenko, LW, Omsk (Rus2)
2/37. Ryan Chesley, D, USA U18 (NDTP)
3/70. Alexander Suzdalev, LW, HV71 (Swe Jr.)
3/85. Ludwig Persson, LW, Frolunda (Swe Jr.)
5/149. Jake Karabela, C, Guelph (OHL)
6/181. Ryan Hofer, RW, Everett (WHL)
7/213. David Gucciardi, D, Michigan St. (BIG10)

WINNIPEG JETS
1/14. Rutger McGroarty, LW, USA U18 (NDTP)
1/30. Brad Lambert, C, Pelicans (Fin)
2/55. Elias Salomonsson, D, Skelleftea (Swe Jr.)
3/77. Danil Zhilkin, C, Guelph (OHL)
4/99. Garrett Brown, D, Sioux City (USHL)
6/175. Fabian Wagner, C, Linkoping (Swe Jr.)
7/207. Domenic Divincentiis, G, North Bay (OHL)

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

OCTOBER

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Friday, Oct. 7		
San Jose	Nashville	2:00 p.m
Saturday, Oct. 8		
Nashville	San Jose	2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 11		
Tampa Bay	NY Rangers	7:30 p.m.
Vegas	Los Angeles	10:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 12		
Toronto	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Boston	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Columbus	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Chicago	Colorado	9:30 p.m.
Vancouver	Edmonton	10:00 p.m.
Seattle	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 13		
Ottawa	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Arizona	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Washington	Toronto	7:30 p.m.
Florida	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Dallas	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
Colorado	Calgary	9:30 p.m.
Chicago	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Seattle	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 14		
Tampa Bay	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Montreal	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
NY Rangers	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
Carolina	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 15		
Florida	Buffalo	1:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Philadelphia	4:00 p.m.
Arizona	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Ottawa	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Detroit	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Montreal	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Anaheim	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Columbus	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Nashville	Dallas	8:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
Calgary	Edmonton	10:00 p.m.
Vegas	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Chicago	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 17		
Florida	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Arizona	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Anaheim	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
Colorado	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Carolina	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 18		
Boston	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Anaheim	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
San Jose	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia	Tampa Bay	8:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Vegas	Calgary	9:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Edmonton	9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 19		
Philadelphia	Florida	7:30 p.m.
Winnipeg	Colorado	8:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 20		
Anaheim	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Dallas	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Arizona	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Washington	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
San Jose	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Nashville	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Vancouver	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Calgary	9:00 p.m.
Carolina	Edmonton	9:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 21		
Tampa Bay	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Detroit	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
Seattle	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 22		
Minnesota	Boston	1:00 p.m.
San Jose	New Jersey	1:00 p.m.
Arizona	Ottawa	4:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Edmonton	4:00 p.m.
Dallas	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Toronto	Winnipeg	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Carolina	Calgary	10:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Colorado	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 23		
Seattle	Chicago	2:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Detroit	5:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Florida	5:00 p.m.
Columbus	NY Rangers	5:00 p.m.
San Jose	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 24		
Dallas	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Washington	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Edmonton	8:00 p.m.
Toronto	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Carolina	Vancouver	10:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 25		
Dallas	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Colorado	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Arizona	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
Florida	Chicago	8:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Calgary	9:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Vegas	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 26		
NY Rangers	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Edmonton	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 27		
Detroit	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Montreal	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Florida	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
Washington	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Vancouver	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Toronto	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 28		
Anaheim	Vegas	6:00 p.m.
Colorado	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Boston	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Arizona	10:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 29		
NY Rangers	Dallas	2:00 p.m.
Ottawa	Florida	4:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	San Jose	4:00 p.m.
Chicago	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Detroit	7:00 p.m.
Carolina	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Montreal	St. Louis	7:00 p.m.
Toronto	Los Angeles	7:00 p.m.
Colorado	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Washington	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Calgary	10:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 30		
Columbus	New Jersey	2:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Chicago	7:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Arizona	8:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Vegas	8:00 p.m.
Toronto	Anaheim	8:00 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 31		
Detroit	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Washington	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Tuesday, Nov. 1		
Ottawa	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Boston	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Vegas	Washington	7:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Chicago	8:00 p.m.
Montreal	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Seattle	Calgary	9:00 p.m.
Nashville	Edmonton	9:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Florida	Arizona	10:00 p.m.
Anaheim	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 2		
Philadelphia	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Buffalo	7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 3		
Vegas	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Carolina	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Boston	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Washington	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
NY Islanders	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Seattle	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
Montreal	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
Nashville	Calgary	9:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Edmonton	9:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Dallas	Arizona	10:00 p.m.
Florida	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 4		
Columbus	Colorado	1:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 5		
Colorado	Columbus	1:00 p.m.
Chicago	Winnipeg	3:00 p.m.
Dallas	Edmonton	4:00 p.m.
Boston	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Vegas	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Detroit	7:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Seattle	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Arizona	Washington	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Calgary	10:00 p.m.
Nashville	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Florida	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Anaheim	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 6		
Detroit	NY Rangers	5:00 p.m.
Toronto	Carolina	5:00 p.m.
Florida	Anaheim	9:00 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 7		
St. Louis	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Calgary	NY Islanders	7:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Washington	8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 8		
Arizona	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Vegas	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Calgary	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Montreal	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
Edmonton	Tampa Bay	7:30 p.m.
Dallas	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
Nashville	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 9		
Carolina	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Montreal	7:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Washington	7:30 p.m.
Minnesota	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 10		
Calgary	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Vegas	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Ottawa	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
Arizona	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
San Jose	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Nashville	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
Chicago	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 11		
Pittsburgh	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Washington	7:00 p.m.
San Jose	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Minnesota	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 12		
Ottawa	Philadelphia	1:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Florida	4:00 p.m.
Boston	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Arizona	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Columbus	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
NY Rangers	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Carolina	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Calgary	10:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Chicago	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Detroit	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 13		
Dallas	Philadelphia	1:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Boston	6:00 p.m.
Arizona	NY Rangers	6:00 p.m.
San Jose	Minnesota	6:00 p.m.
Washington	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Seattle	8:00 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 14		
NY Islanders	Ottawa	5:00 p.m.
Carolina	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
Los Angeles	Calgary	8:30 p.m.
St. Louis	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 15		
Vancouver	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Dallas	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Washington	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Toronto	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
San Jose	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Detroit	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 16		
Buffalo	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Chicago	7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles	Edmonton	10:00 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 17		
Philadelphia	Boston	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Calgary	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Dallas	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Colorado	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Montreal	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Washington	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
Arizona	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Detroit	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 18		
Los Angeles	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 19		
New Jersey	Ottawa	1:00 p.m.
Calgary	Florida	4:00 p.m.
Chicago	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Colorado	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Detroit	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Winnipeg	7:00 p.m.
Anaheim	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Dallas	8:00 p.m.
Carolina	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
Vegas	Edmonton	10:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 20		
Florida	Columbus	6:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Chicago	7:00 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 21		
Boston	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Edmonton	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Calgary	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Toronto	7:30 p.m.
Carolina	Winnipeg	7:30 p.m.
Anaheim	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Arizona	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Colorado	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Vegas	Vancouver	10:30 p.m.
Ottawa	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 22		
Buffalo	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 23		
St. Louis	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Boston	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Toronto	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Calgary	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Arizona	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Montreal	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Minnesota	7:00 p.m.
Nashville	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
Edmonton	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia	Washington	7:30 p.m.
Chicago	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Vancouver	Colorado	10:00 p.m.
Ottawa	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
San Jose	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 25		
Carolina	Boston	1:00 p.m.
Calgary	Washington	2:00 p.m.
Montreal	Chicago	2:00 p.m.
Colorado	Nashville	2:00 p.m.
Toronto	Minnesota	2:00 p.m.
Ottawa	Anaheim	3:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Philadelphia	5:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Buffalo	7:30 p.m.
Arizona	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
St. Louis	Tampa Bay	7:30 p.m.
NY Islanders	Columbus	7:30 p.m.
Seattle	Vegas	8:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Los Angeles	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 26		
Edmonton	NY Rangers	1:00 p.m.
Calgary	Carolina	4:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Florida	6:00 p.m.
Washington	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Toronto	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Columbus	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Dallas	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 27		
Arizona	Minnesota	2:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Chicago	7:00 p.m.
Seattle	Anaheim	8:00 p.m.
Vancouver	San Jose	8:00 p.m.
Ottawa	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 28		
Tampa Bay	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Toronto	Detroit	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Vegas	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Dallas	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Florida	Edmonton	9:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 29		
Tampa Bay	Boston	7:00 p.m.
San Jose	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Carolina	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Colorado	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
Florida	Calgary	9:00 p.m.
Washington	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Seattle	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 30		
San Jose	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Detroit	7:00 p.m.

SCHEDULE | 2022-23

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Edmonton	Chicago	9:30 p.m.
DECEMBER		
Thursday, Dec. 1		
Colorado	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Nashville	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Vegas	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Carolina	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Montreal	Calgary	9:00 p.m.
Florida	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Washington	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Arizona	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 2		
Ottawa	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Nashville	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Columbus	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 3		
Anaheim	Minnesota	2:00 p.m.
Colorado	Boston	7:00 p.m.
San Jose	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Vegas	Detroit	7:00 p.m.
Toronto	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Montreal	Edmonton	7:00 p.m.
Chicago	NY Rangers	7:30 p.m.
Washington	Calgary	10:00 p.m.
Arizona	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Florida	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Carolina	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 4		
Minnesota	Dallas	3:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Winnipeg	3:00 p.m.
Detroit	Columbus	6:00 p.m.
San Jose	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Chicago	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 5		
Vegas	Boston	7:00 p.m.
St. Louis	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Colorado	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Washington	Edmonton	8:30 p.m.
Arizona	Calgary	9:00 p.m.
Montreal	Vancouver	10:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 6		
Los Angeles	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Detroit	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Chicago	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Columbus	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
St. Louis	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Florida	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
Toronto	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Carolina	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Montreal	Seattle	10:00 p.m
Wednesday, Dec. 7		
Buffalo	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Washington	Philadelphia	7:30 p.m.
Minnesota	Calgary	8:00 p.m.
Boston	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
Arizona	Edmonton	9:30 p.m.
NY Rangers	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Vancouver	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 8		
Los Angeles	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Nashville	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Detroit	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Ottawa	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 9		
Pittsburgh	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Seattle	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Calgary	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
NY Rangers	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Edmonton	9:00 p.m.
Boston	Arizona	9:30 p.m.
Philadelphia	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
San Jose	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 10		
Ottawa	Nashville	1:30 p.m.
Detroit	Dallas	2:00 p.m.
Florida	Tampa Bay	4:00 p.m.
Calgary	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Carolina	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Minnesota	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 11		
Colorado	St. Louis	2:00 p.m.
Seattle	Florida	6:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Columbus	6:00 p.m.
Washington	Winnipeg	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	Arizona	7:00 p.m.
Boston	Vegas	8:00 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 12		
Calgary	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Dallas	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Ottawa	7:30 p.m.
Nashville	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 13		
NY Islanders	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Seattle	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Columbus	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Dallas	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Carolina	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
Edmonton	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Vegas	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
Washington	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
Philadelphia	Colorado	10:00 p.m.
Arizona	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 14		
Montreal	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Detroit	Minnesota	7:30 p.m.
Vancouver	Calgary	10:00 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 15		
Los Angeles	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Columbus	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Toronto	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Dallas	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Seattle	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Nashville	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
Vegas	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
Buffalo	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Edmonton	9:00 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 16		
Chicago	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Calgary	9:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Arizona	9:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 17		
Columbus	Boston	1:00 p.m.
Ottawa	Detroit	1:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Edmonton	4:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Florida	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Toronto	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Dallas	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Nashville	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Arizona	9:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
San Jose	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 18		
Ottawa	Minnesota	2:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Carolina	5:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Chicago	7:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Seattle	8:00 p.m.
Calgary	San Jose	10:00 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 19		
Florida	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Detroit	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Dallas	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
Montreal	Arizona	10:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Vancouver	10:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 20		
Tampa Bay	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Columbus	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Ottawa	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Calgary	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 21		
Tampa Bay	Detroit	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Montreal	Colorado	8:00 p.m.
Nashville	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
Edmonton	Dallas	9:30 p.m.
Arizona	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 22		
Philadelphia	Toronto	2:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Washington	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Carolina	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Seattle	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Calgary	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Minnesota	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 23		
Tampa Bay	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Detroit	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Boston	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Florida	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Colorado	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Columbus	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
Montreal	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Vancouver	Edmonton	9:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Arizona	9:30 p.m.
St. Louis	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Calgary	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 27		
Boston	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Washington	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Chicago	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Toronto	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Dallas	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Calgary	9:00 p.m.
Colorado	Arizona	9:00 p.m.
San Jose	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Vegas	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 28		
Montreal	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Boston	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Detroit	Pittsburgh	7:30 p.m.
Vegas	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Calgary	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 29		
Detroit	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Montreal	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Ottawa	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Columbus	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Chicago	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Dallas	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
Toronto	Arizona	9:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 30		
Nashville	Anaheim	5:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Florida	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 31		
Buffalo	Boston	1:00 p.m.
Minnesota	St. Louis	TBD
Nashville	Vegas	3:00 p.m.
Montreal	Washington	4:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	Los Angeles	4:00 p.m.
Ottawa	Detroit	7:00 p.m.
Arizona	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Chicago	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Toronto	Colorado	7:00 p.m.
San Jose	Dallas	8:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Calgary	10:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Edmonton	10:00 p.m.
JANUARY		
Sunday, Jan. 1		
Carolina	New Jersey	3:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Florida	5:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
San Jose	Chicago	7:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Seattle	8:00 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 2		
Pittsburgh	Boston	2:00 p.m.
Vegas	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 3		
St. Louis	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Columbus	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Arizona	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Carolina	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Montreal	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Calgary	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
Seattle	Edmonton	9:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Dallas	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 4		
New Jersey	Detroit	7:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Minnesota	9:30 p.m.
Dallas	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 5		
Seattle	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
St. Louis	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Arizona	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Nashville	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Washington	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Edmonton	9:00 p.m.
Colorado	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Boston	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 6		
Nashville	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Florida	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
Arizona	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
NY Islanders	Calgary	9:00 p.m.
San Jose	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 7		
NY Rangers	New Jersey	1:00 p.m.
Carolina	Columbus	4:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Detroit	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Seattle	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Colorado	Edmonton	10:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Boston	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 8		
Florida	Dallas	1:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Winnipeg	3:00 p.m.
Columbus	Washington	5:00 p.m.
Toronto	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Calgary	Chicago	7:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Minnesota	7:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Arizona	7:00 p.m.
Boston	Anaheim	8:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 9		
Seattle	Montreal	7:30 p.m.
Nashville	Ottawa	7:30 p.m.
Edmonton	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 10		
Seattle	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Columbus	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Minnesota	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
Dallas	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Calgary	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Florida	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
San Jose	Arizona	9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 11		
Nashville	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Washington	Philadelphia	7:30 p.m.
Edmonton	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
San Jose	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 12		
Seattle	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Nashville	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Toronto	Detroit	7:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Dallas	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Carolina	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Minnesota	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Calgary	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Colorado	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
Ottawa	Arizona	9:00 p.m.
Florida	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 13		
Winnipeg	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Edmonton	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 14		
Calgary	Dallas	2:00 p.m.
Toronto	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Columbus	Detroit	7:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Montreal	NY Islanders	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Ottawa	Colorado	7:00 p.m.
Seattle	Chicago	8:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Arizona	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 15		
Montreal	NY Rangers	5:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Carolina	5:00 p.m.
Arizona	Winnipeg	7:00 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 16		
Philadelphia	Boston	1:00 p.m.
Florida	Buffalo	1:00 p.m.
Detroit	Colorado	3:00 p.m.
New Jersey	San Jose	4:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Seattle	4:00 p.m.
Dallas	Vegas	6:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Washington	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Ottawa	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Calgary	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 17		
Florida	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
Seattle	Edmonton	9:00 p.m.
Detroit	Arizona	9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 18		
Pittsburgh	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Boston	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Colorado	Calgary	10:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Dallas	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 19		
NY Islanders	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Florida	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Boston	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Chicago	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Nashville	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Edmonton	9:00 p.m.
Washington	Arizona	9:00 p.m.
Detroit	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Dallas	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Friday, Jan. 20		
Ottawa	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Colorado	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 21		
Anaheim	Buffalo	12:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Calgary	3:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Florida	6:00 p.m.
Toronto	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	Detroit	7:00 p.m.
San Jose	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Carolina	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Chicago	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Arizona	Dallas	8:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Washington	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Colorado	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 22		
Pittsburgh	New Jersey	2:00 p.m.
San Jose	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Chicago	7:00 p.m.
Vegas	Arizona	8:00 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 23		
NY Islanders	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Florida	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Columbus	Calgary	9:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 24		
Boston	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Vegas	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Florida	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
San Jose	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
Buffalo	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Washington	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Arizona	9:00 p.m.
Chicago	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 25		
NY Rangers	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Carolina	Dallas	9:30 p.m.
Columbus	Edmonton	9:30 p.m.
Vancouver	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 26		
Detroit	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Boston	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Washington	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	Minnesota	9:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
Chicago	Calgary	9:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Arizona	9:00 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 27		
Ottawa	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Detroit	NY Islanders	7:00 p.m.
Vegas	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
San Jose	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Columbus	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Calgary	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 28		
St. Louis	Colorado	3:00 p.m.
Boston	Florida	6:00 p.m.
Montreal	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
San Jose	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	Winnipeg	7:00 p.m.
Vegas	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Buffalo	Minnesota	9:00 p.m.
Chicago	Edmonton	10:00 p.m.
Arizona	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Columbus	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 29		
Washington	Toronto	5:00 p.m.
Boston	Carolina	5:00 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 30		
St. Louis	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 31		
Ottawa	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Washington	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
FEBRUARY		
Wednesday, Feb. 1		
Carolina	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Boston	Toronto	7:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 6		
Tampa Bay	Florida	7:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Vancouver	New Jersey	7:30 p.m.
Calgary	NY Rangers	7:30 p.m.
Anaheim	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Minnesota	Arizona	9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 7		
San Jose	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Colorado	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
Seattle	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Vegas	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 8		
Vancouver	NY Rangers	8:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 9		
Colorado	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
San Jose	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Seattle	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Calgary	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
Vancouver	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Vegas	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 10		
Seattle	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Toronto	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Arizona	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 11		
Vancouver	Detroit	12:00 p.m.
Calgary	Buffalo	12:30 p.m.
NY Islanders	Montreal	12:30 p.m.
Edmonton	Ottawa	12:30 p.m.
Nashville	Philadelphia	12:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Dallas	1:00 p.m.
Washington	Boston	3:00 p.m.
Colorado	Florida	6:00 p.m.
Columbus	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Arizona	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
Chicago	Winnipeg	10:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 12		
Edmonton	Montreal	12:30 p.m.
Seattle	Philadelphia	1:00 p.m.
San Jose	Washington	1:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Vegas	3:00 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 13		
Calgary	Ottawa	7:30 p.m.
Arizona	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Florida	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
Detroit	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 14		
Chicago	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Carolina	Washington	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Ottawa	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Florida	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Seattle	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
Boston	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 15		
Chicago	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Arizona	9:00 p.m.
Colorado	Minnesota	9:30 p.m.
Detroit	Edmonton	9:30 p.m.
NY Rangers	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 16		
Florida	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Montreal	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Boston	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Detroit	Calgary	9:00 p.m.
San Jose	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 17		
Chicago	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	NY Islanders	7:00 p.m.
Dallas	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Edmonton	9:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 18		
Colorado	St. Louis	2:00 p.m.
Florida	Nashville	2:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Boston	5:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Pittsburgh	5:30 p.m.
Columbus	Dallas	6:00 p.m.
Montreal	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Washington	Carolina	8:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Calgary	10:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Vegas	10:30 p.m.
Arizona	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Buffalo	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Detroit	Seattle	10:30 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 19		
St. Louis	Ottawa	2:00 p.m.
Nashville	Minnesota	2:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Colorado	3:00 p.m.
Toronto	Chicago	6:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Columbus	Arizona	8:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 20		
Ottawa	Boston	1:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Florida	1:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	Calgary	4:00 p.m.
Seattle	San Jose	4:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 21		
Toronto	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Montreal	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Detroit	Washington	7:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
Vegas	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
Philadelphia	Edmonton	9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 22		
Winnipeg	NY Islanders	7:00 p.m.
Chicago	Dallas	7:30 p.m.
Calgary	Arizona	10:00 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 23		
Buffalo	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
Vancouver	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Calgary	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Boston	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Nashville	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 24		
Minnesota	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Montreal	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Ottawa	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Colorado	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 25		
Edmonton	Columbus	12:30 p.m.
NY Rangers	Washington	3:00 p.m.
Ottawa	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Detroit	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Boston	Vancouver	7:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Calgary	Colorado	10:00 p.m.
Dallas	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Chicago	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 26		
Washington	Buffalo	1:00 p.m.
Columbus	Minnesota	2:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Winnipeg	3:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	NY Rangers	5:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Pittsburgh	6:00 p.m.
Nashville	Arizona	7:00 p.m.
Toronto	Seattle	7:00 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 27		
Vancouver	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Boston	Edmonton	8:30 p.m.
Vegas	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
Chicago	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 28		
Columbus	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Detroit	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Florida	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Seattle	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
Boston	Calgary	9:00 p.m.
Chicago	Arizona	9:00 p.m.
Montreal	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
MARCH		
Wednesday, March 1		
NY Rangers	Philadelphia	7:30 p.m.
Toronto	Edmonton	8:00 p.m.
Arizona	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
New Jersey	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
Carolina	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Washington	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 2		
Buffalo	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Nashville	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Ottawa	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Seattle	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
Dallas	Chicago	9:00 p.m.
Toronto	Calgary	9:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Montreal	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
St. Louis	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Friday, March 3		
Seattle	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Edmonton	9:00 p.m.
Carolina	Arizona	9:30 p.m.
New Jersey	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Montreal	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 4		
Philadelphia	Buffalo	12:30 p.m.
Detroit	NY Islanders	12:30 p.m.
NY Rangers	Boston	3:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Florida	6:00 p.m.
Washington	San Jose	6:00 p.m.
Columbus	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Winnipeg	7:00 p.m.
Toronto	Vancouver	7:00 p.m.
Nashville	Chicago	8:00 p.m.
Colorado	Dallas	8:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Calgary	10:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 5		
Tampa Bay	Carolina	3:00 p.m.
Detroit	Philadelphia	6:00 p.m.
Montreal	Vegas	6:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Arizona	7:00 p.m.
Seattle	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
Monday, March 6		
Edmonton	Buffalo	7:30 p.m.
San Jose	Winnipeg	7:30 p.m.
Calgary	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Ottawa	Chicago	9:00 p.m.
Nashville	Vancouver	10:30 p.m.
Washington	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 7		
Carolina	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Vegas	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Toronto	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Columbus	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Buffalo	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Calgary	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
San Jose	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Arizona	9:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 8		
Chicago	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
Minnesota	Winnipeg	7:30 p.m.
Anaheim	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 9		
Edmonton	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Dallas	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Vegas	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
San Jose	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
Nashville	Arizona	9:00 p.m.
Ottawa	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Friday, March 10		
Chicago	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Calgary	9:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 11		
Detroit	Boston	1:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	3:30 p.m.
NY Rangers	Buffalo	5:00 p.m.
Arizona	Colorado	6:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Chicago	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Vegas	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Washington	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Ottawa	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Dallas	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Nashville	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Minnesota	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 12		
Boston	Detroit	1:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Pittsburgh	4:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Carolina	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Vegas	St. Louis	7:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Arizona	9:30 p.m.
Ottawa	Calgary	9:00 p.m.
Nashville	Anaheim	9:30 p.m.
Monday, March 13		
Buffalo	Toronto	7:30 p.m.
Colorado	Montreal	7:30 p.m.
Dallas	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 14		
Tampa Bay	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Washington	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Vegas	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Montreal	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Detroit	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Boston	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
Ottawa	Edmonton	9:00 p.m.
Dallas	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Calgary	Arizona	10:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Columbus	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 15		
Colorado	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Minnesota	St. Louis	9:30 p.m.
NY Islanders	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 16		
Colorado	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Montreal	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Chicago	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Boston	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
Dallas	Edmonton	9:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Arizona	10:00 p.m.
Calgary	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Columbus	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Seattle	San Jose	10:30 p.m.

VISITOR	HOME	TIME
Friday, March 17		
Carolina	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Columbus	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 18		
Colorado	Detroit	1:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Nashville	2:00 p.m.
Boston	Minnesota	2:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Seattle	4:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Florida	5:00 p.m.
Carolina	Philadelphia	5:00 p.m.
Toronto	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Montreal	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	NY Rangers	8:00 p.m.
Dallas	Calgary	10:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Los Angeles	10:00 p.m.
Chicago	Arizona	10:30 p.m.
NY Islanders	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 19		
Boston	Buffalo	1:00 p.m.
Washington	Minnesota	2:00 p.m.
Columbus	Vegas	4:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Nashville	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	St. Louis	7:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Anaheim	8:00 p.m.
Monday, March 20		
Ottawa	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Florida	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
Chicago	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
San Jose	Edmonton	9:30 p.m.
Calgary	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 21		
Ottawa	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Nashville	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Minnesota	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Carolina	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Florida	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Columbus	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Toronto	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Detroit	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Arizona	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
Seattle	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Vegas	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Calgary	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 22		
Pittsburgh	Colorado	8:00 p.m.
Arizona	Edmonton	10:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 23		
Montreal	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Toronto	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Chicago	Washington	7:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
Seattle	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Vegas	Calgary	9:00 p.m.
San Jose	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Friday, March 24		
New Jersey	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Arizona	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 25		
Tampa Bay	Boston	1:00 p.m.
Detroit	Philadelphia	1:00 p.m.
Seattle	Nashville	2:00 p.m.
San Jose	Calgary	4:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Los Angeles	4:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Florida	5:00 p.m.
Chicago	Minnesota	5:00 p.m.
Buffalo	NY Islanders	5:30 p.m.
Columbus	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Ottawa	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Toronto	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Dallas	7:00 p.m.
Washington	Pittsburgh	8:00 p.m.
Vegas	Edmonton	10:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Anaheim	10:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 26		
Colorado	Arizona	3:00 p.m.
Boston	Carolina	5:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Chicago	6:00 p.m.
Toronto	Nashville	6:00 p.m.
St. Louis	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Monday, March 27		
Montreal	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Florida	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Seattle	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Arizona	10:00 p.m.
Colorado	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 28		
Nashville	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Columbus	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
Montreal	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
Vancouver	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Dallas	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
Los Angeles	Calgary	9:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 29		
Florida	Toronto	7:30 p.m.
NY Islanders	Washington	7:30 p.m.
Minnesota	Colorado	10:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 30		
Columbus	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Florida	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Washington	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Nashville	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Carolina	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
St. Louis	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
Los Angeles	Edmonton	9:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Vegas	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Friday, March 31		
NY Rangers	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Detroit	Winnipeg	8:00 p.m.
Calgary	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Dallas	Arizona	10:30 p.m.
APRIL		
Saturday, April 1		
St. Louis	Nashville	1:00 p.m.
Boston	Pittsburgh	3:00 p.m.
Carolina	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Toronto	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Florida	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Chicago	8:00 p.m.
Dallas	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Edmonton	10:00 p.m.
San Jose	Arizona	10:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 2		
NY Rangers	Washington	1:00 p.m.
Boston	St. Louis	3:30 p.m.
Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	6:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Carolina	6:00 p.m.
Ottawa	Columbus	6:00 p.m.
Detroit	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Winnipeg	7:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Calgary	8:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Vancouver	8:00 p.m.
Monday, April 3		
Vegas	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
Nashville	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Arizona	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 4		
Columbus	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Detroit	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Ottawa	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Vegas	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Chicago	Calgary	9:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Los Angeles	9:30 p.m.
Seattle	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Colorado	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 5		
Tampa Bay	NY Rangers	7:30 p.m.
Calgary	Winnipeg	7:30 p.m.
Edmonton	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 6		
Toronto	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Washington	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Ottawa	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Columbus	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Buffalo	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
NY Rangers	St. Louis	8:00 p.m.
Carolina	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Chicago	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Arizona	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Colorado	San Jose	10:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 8		
Carolina	Buffalo	12:30 p.m.
St. Louis	Minnesota	3:00 p.m.
Edmonton	San Jose	4:00 p.m.
Anaheim	Arizona	5:30 p.m.
New Jersey	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Montreal	Toronto	7:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Detroit	7:00 p.m.
Florida	Washington	7:00 p.m.
NY Rangers	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Nashville	Winnipeg	7:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	NY Islanders	7:30 p.m.
Vegas	Dallas	8:00 p.m.
Calgary	Vancouver	10:00 p.m.
Chicago	Seattle	10:00 p.m.
Colorado	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 9		
Boston	Philadelphia	6:00 p.m.
Colorado	Anaheim	8:30 p.m.
Monday, April 10		
Carolina	Ottawa	7:00 p.m.
Toronto	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Buffalo	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
NY Islanders	Washington	7:00 p.m.
San Jose	Winnipeg	7:00 p.m.
Dallas	Detroit	7:30 p.m.
Minnesota	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
Nashville	Calgary	9:30 p.m.
Seattle	Arizona	10:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Los Angeles	10:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 11		
Washington	Boston	7:00 p.m.
Toronto	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Buffalo	New Jersey	7:00 p.m.
Columbus	Philadelphia	7:00 p.m.
Chicago	Pittsburgh	7:00 p.m.
Detroit	Carolina	7:00 p.m.
Winnipeg	Minnesota	8:00 p.m.
Edmonton	Colorado	9:30 p.m.
Seattle	Vegas	10:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 12		
Montreal	NY Islanders	7:00 p.m.
Dallas	St. Louis	7:30 p.m.
San Jose	Calgary	10:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 13		
Ottawa	Buffalo	7:00 p.m.
Boston	Montreal	7:00 p.m.
Detroit	Tampa Bay	7:00 p.m.
Carolina	Florida	7:00 p.m.
Toronto	NY Rangers	7:00 p.m.
New Jersey	Washington	7:00 p.m.
Pittsburgh	Columbus	7:00 p.m.
Minnesota	Nashville	8:00 p.m.
Philadelphia	Chicago	8:30 p.m.
St. Louis	Dallas	8:30 p.m.
Winnipeg	Colorado	9:00 p.m.
San Jose	Edmonton	9:00 p.m.
Vancouver	Arizona	10:00 p.m.
Los Angeles	Anaheim	10:00 p.m.
Vegas	Seattle	10:00 p.m.

PHIL KESSEL

JAMES GUILLORY-USA TODAY SPORTS

UNRESTRICTED FREE AGENTS

Not everyone had a home by the time Yearbook went to press in mid-August. Several NHLers who played at least 20 games in '21-22 hadn't signed deals

GOALIES	2021-22	GP	W	L	OT	GAA	SP
Braden Holtby	Dallas	24	10	10	1	2.78	.913
DEFENSEMEN	**2021-22**	**GP**	**G**	**A**		**PTS**	**PIM**
Nathan Beaulieu	Winnipeg	24	0	4		4	25
Zdeno Chara	NY Islanders	72	2	12		14	85
Calvin de Haan	Chicago	69	4	4		8	33
Danny DeKeyser	Detroit	59	0	11		11	26
Andy Greene	NY Islanders	69	2	8		10	10
Jack Johnson	Colorado	74	1	8		9	42
Ryan Murray	Colorado	37	0	4		4	2
Kris Russell	Edmonton	31	2	7		9	4
Anton Stralman	Arizona	74	8	15		23	12
P.K. Subban	New Jersey	77	5	17		22	82
Keith Yandle	Philadelphia	77	1	18		19	14
CENTERS	**2021-22**	**GP**	**G**	**A**		**PTS**	**PIM**
Jay Beagle	Arizona	33	1	1		2	27
Tyler Bozak	St. Louis	50	3	9		12	14
Cody Eakin	Buffalo	69	4	8		12	22
Sam Gagner	Detroit	81	13	18		31	32
Nazem Kadri	Colorado	71	28	59		87	71
Johan Larsson	Ari/Wsh	43	7	14		21	32
Riley Nash	Ari/Wpg/TB	49	0	4		4	10
Cedric Paquette	Montreal	24	0	2		2	25
Victor Rask	Min/Sea	47	9	12		21	2
Brad Richardson	Cgy/Van	44	4	4		8	35
Carter Rowney	Detroit	26	4	2		6	0
Sam Steel	Anaheim	68	6	14		20	16
Derek Stepan	Carolina	58	9	10		19	14
Nate Thompson	Philadelphia	33	1	2		3	31
Joe Thornton	Florida	34	5	5		10	10
Kyle Turris	Edmonton	23	1	3		4	4
LEFT WINGERS	**2021-22**	**GP**	**G**	**A**		**PTS**	**PIM**
Zach Aston-Reese	Pit/Ana	69	5	10		15	28
Brian Boyle	Pittsburgh	66	11	10		21	27
Derick Brassard	Phi/Edm	46	8	11		19	16
Jonathan Dahlen	San Jose	61	12	10		22	12
Tyler Ennis	Ottawa	57	8	16		24	16
Loui Eriksson	Arizona	73	3	16		19	6
Alex Galchenyuk	Arizona	60	6	15		21	32
Sonny Milano	Anaheim	66	14	20		34	10
Tyler Motte	Van/NYR	58	7	8		15	22
Mathieu Perreault	Montreal	25	4	5		9	4
Antoine Roussel	Arizona	53	4	4		8	59
Paul Stastny	Winnipeg	71	21	24		45	14
Evgeny Svechnikov	Winnipeg	72	7	12		19	38
Jimmy Vesey	New Jersey	68	8	7		15	12
RIGHT WINGERS	**2021-22**	**GP**	**G**	**A**		**PTS**	**PIM**
Alex Chiasson	Vancouver	67	13	9		22	24
Phil Kessel	Arizona	82	8	44		52	40
Brendan Perlini	Edmonton	23	4	1		5	6
Tyler Pitlick	Cgy/Mtl	39	1	4		5	6
Brett Ritchie	Calgary	41	3	1		4	29
Evan Rodrigues	Pittsburgh	82	19	24		43	14
Colton Sceviour	Edmonton	35	2	3		5	26
Dominik Simon	Pit/Ana	72	3	10		13	34
Daniel Sprong	Wsh/Sea	63	14	6		20	8

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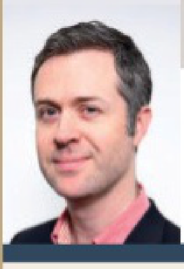

LAST WORD

WITH RYAN KENNEDY

REVEL IN THE ROAD'S REWARDS

After far too long, it was good to travel again and get the opportunity to provide color in stories – and debate what exactly makes a 'Tiki Bar'

ON THE ROAD AGAIN. Don't ask me to quote any other Willie Nelson lyrics, because I would struggle (though he seems like a nice dude). But ask me about The Road itself and I will gladly prattle on.

The pandemic impacted every aspect of life, and in my little world, that included how we covered hockey. Uncharacteristically, there were a couple years where I didn't travel at all, but as the second half of last season rolled along, I was comfortable enough to move about the continent once again.

Business trips vary by industry, but for us sportswriters, there's a lot of color you just don't get over Zoom calls – as helpful as they were when we had no other option. Getting back on the road last season was both nerve-racking and exciting, but as we creep toward normalcy, it was nice to have those experiences back.

Whether it was hanging out with Jack Hughes in Newark or watching a stunning Frozen Four championship in Boston, I started to get my sea, er...air, legs back, but it was the Stanley Cup final and NHL draft that really made things feel like old times again.

Those are the events that not only give you wide access to players, management and prospects, but they also allow you to convene with your media peers from around the globe. The hours can be wild and the workload heavy, but who could ever complain about writing hockey stories for a living? For every low of a cancelled or delayed flight (and they have been more frequent these days, as any traveller can attest to), there's the high of going to an afternoon baseball game on a sunny off-day, where the Colorado Rockies should probably thank the championship Avs for increased attendance based on hockey reporters alone.

In Tampa, it was the chance to once again hang out in a city recently synonymous with Cup finals and rehash one of the most divisive arguments in hockey media circles right now: should what some writers call the 'Tiki Bar' by the water – which everyone agrees is a fine outdoor establishment to hang out at for a post-game wind-down – be called the Tiki Bar? I, for one, call it by its real name: Sail Bar, because it's not a tiki bar and does not have any of the elements of a tiki bar, such as tiki lights, faux-Polynesian drinks or decor. No friendships have yet been tested by this debate, but if the Lightning make it back to the final again in 2023, things might jump up a notch.

SHANE WRIGHT

VINCENT ETHIER/CHL

And then, of course, there was the draft in Montreal, a location I have to suspect the NHL chose as a reward for reporters who had waited patiently for an in-person draft to return since 2020. It's no secret that hockey writers love Montreal. It's an incredible city to visit with great food (both high- and low-brow – guess which one I seek out) and a vibrant atmosphere filled with various watering holes in which to revel.

But Montreal also has the passionate fans of the Habs, and the fact the Canadiens were slated to pick first overall just made the destination event all the more hyped. Sure enough, new Montreal GM Kent Hughes delivered maximum fireworks by taking power forward Juraj Slafkovsky first overall instead of two-way center Shane Wright. Then we had Alex DeBrincat, Kirby Dach and Alexander Romanov all traded. Delightful chaos, indeed.

There was also a reunion with the famed Montreal press box hot dogs. Oh, those hot dogs; steamed to perfection and served in a weird bun that looks like a folded slice of white bread. I had six during the draft, and I could have eaten more – had my brain not overruled my tastebuds. But they are the perfect, quick protein burst when you're bombing around the bowels of the Bell Centre trying to find Seattle GM Ron Francis' end-of-day availability before it's too late.

Draft weekend for me has always been a marathon of running between the press row bleachers and the inner chambers of the arena, grabbing interviews with the new draftees and popping my head up like a meerkat to gawk at the monitors to see who the latest pick was. If I had a Fitbit, it would probably have an impressive readout on the weekend.

Once the second day was over, the THN crew piled back into the car and headed down the highway back to Toronto. You're exhausted, you're coming down from an adrenaline kick and weighed down by hot dog meat. I'm glad those experiences are back.

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